

Hemingford Grey Primary School
Governing Body
Minutes of the Curriculum Meeting
Held on Tuesday 19th June 2018 at 6:30pm

Present: Ruth Burrows (Committee Chair, RBu)
Jenny Jones (Committee Vice Chair, JJ)
Jonathan Clarke (Deputy Head, JC)
Helen Peat (HP)
Rachel Brown (RBr)
Bill Brownlie (BB)
Rick Howell (RH)
Hayley Coulter (Acting Clerk, HC)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence, declarations of interest

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting

Apologies for absence: Received and accepted from TMcM

Declarations of interest: None

2. Team Leader Presentation – Creative Team led by Leah Robertson (LR)

The School achieved the Silver Artsmark this year and the body awarding this accreditation was very impressed with the work the school has achieved in art and the CPD supporting this subject. The Creative Team received feedback that they should be looking at producing evidence of measurable progress in order to achieve gold next time. LR suggested that questionnaires could be given to the children to measure progress.

The children have enjoyed various activities this year including a visit to the O2 to participate in the Young Voices event, the Singfest programme which has been held at different venues, an opera assembly at school and Open Gardens where the choir sang and showcased a piece of artwork from every child which was displayed in a gallery. LR told the Governors that the high quality art displays continue to be enjoyed by the school community and volunteers have been help into school to help with art. A new teacher was appointed to teach music once a week and a new piano has been purchased from money raised at the Christmas Fair. A summer concert will be taking place this year, new percussion instruments have been purchased and a specialist singing teacher has been working with the choir. The school has also run an inter-house singing competition. A company called Urban Strides have visited school for dance programme.

Goals this academic year (2017-18):

To ensure that high quality music in school continues.

To work collaboratively with other professionals and local schools ie a cluster singing day

To ensure a variety of mediums and art is used across the school.

To ensure that art is embedded into the school routine.

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Art provision is monitored by the Art Lead, Eleni Griffiths. There are links between art and science where children have the opportunity to explore the school's outdoor environment to draw plants, flowers and trees. An art area is being developed for children to quietly draw in the wildlife area and this project will be led by children in year 6. Parent art workshops have run once a term throughout the year and the school has received very positive feedback from the parents who attended. Children have made products to sell at the Christmas Fair and Open Gardens event.

Question: Has the school seen an increase in the uptake of music lessons from children?

Answer: Yes, we have seen an increased number of children taking woodwind, guitar, drum and piano lessons.

Looking ahead:

To work on measurable progress to achieve the Gold Artsmark Award.

To provide a broader variety of artwork perhaps using printing and clay.

Improve the quality of singing by introducing rounds and simple harmonies into whole school singing assemblies but particularly the choir.

Making links with St.Ivo's Dance and Drama departments.

3. Team Leader Presentation – Knowledge and Understanding of the World led by Kathryn Honey (KH)

Targets:

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

Developing relationships, particularly the girls in years 5 and 6

Keeping children safe on the roads

These targets have been achieved by:

The Skip2BFit programme where every child in the school participated in a skipping activity day which promoted mental and physical wellbeing and a competition was held during the day to find the most improved child in each year group.

Urban Strides visited school and provided a variety of opportunities to promote fitness through dance.

Sports day promoted resilience and was accessible for every child for a really enjoyable morning and included a sports day dance which the children learnt in advance in their school houses.

KH reported that we are very lucky to have St.Neots Football Academy who are instrumental to the school's PE provision and provided additional activities at sports day to make the events accessible for all children.

The school participated in various sports fixtures including hockey, netball and football. The hockey team celebrated winning the regional tournament and county finals this year.

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Ten year 3 and 4 girls attended an introductory skills workshop which gave the children the opportunity to learn new skills by meeting older girls who play football.

A target for the future is to increase participation in cross country. Elliot Mephram has been running a lunchtime club and entered five teams into a large cross country event at Priory Junior School.

KH reported that boys football is always popular and netball is gaining in popularity.

The quality of provision by St. Neots Football Academy is phenomenal who not only stretch the able children but provide scaffolding for those children who need it.

An identified target was to introduce more structured PSHCE through role play and activities to promote positive relationships and build on empathy. This has been very successful from the strategies the children have learned. The impact has been evident in the reduction in the number of friendship problems.

Another identified target was safety around roads. A PCSO has visited to promote the Green Cross Code and a road safety assembly was presented to the children around 'Be Safe Be Seen'. Work has also taken place with the house captains to conduct a road safety survey and the findings of the survey were outlined in a letter which the house captains wrote to parents. The impact of this learning has been evident in that there have been no reported traffic accidents.

British values have been promoted across the school and CPD training has been given to support teachers in delivering this. Documentation on British values has been created for the website and Picture News is used to discuss British values with the children on a weekly basis.

The impact has been evident in that the children have a solid understanding of the differences between differences and stereotypes.

A continuing priority is PSHCE.

Another target and part of the school improvement priority is the science curriculum and grounds which is overseen by Nick Churchill.

4. Team Leader Presentation – Science led by Nick Churchill (NC)

There is a very practical approach to science and a strong focus that science is embedded into the curriculum. INSET day looked at how to record science appropriately and that literacy and numeracy should never be a barrier for children being able to record findings. In KS1 discrete science topics are recorded in science books and there is lots of continuous provision in the Learning Zones. In KS2, four key areas are taught explicitly through discrete topics. Science across the school is taught in a two year cycle.

The school has been looking at developing the outdoor environment. The school enjoys a large space and the teachers have been trained as to how to use this space by growing plants and looking after them by watering appropriately.

Science has links to all topics and is integrated into the curriculum wherever possible.

An example of this is that children visit the pond area for descriptive writing opportunities.

A pastoral provision is in place led by a member of staff where vulnerable children can visit the allotments at lunchtime and help maintain the produce.

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Outdoor learning builds risk taking and resilience skills for the children and encourages them to assess the outdoor environment and decide which risks they can take.

The school is fortunate to have support from Hemingford Grey's community Gardening Club. They have kindly purchased a bird box with an infrared camera inside and the children have recently watched a family of birds hatch. Members of the Gardening Club regularly visit and work outside with the children tending to plants and the club initiated the school's involvement with the recent Open Gardens. The school has also built a bug hotel which contributes to the eco system. The school also has a chicken enclosure from which the children collect eggs which the kitchen buy to use for school meal provision.

The allotments teach the children about soils and nutrient cycles and as the kitchen buy the fruit and vegetables grown, this makes the allotments sustainable.

The memorial garden has been replanted by the children into a colour wheel. They have worked very hard to achieve this as lots of bind weed needed to be removed. The wildlife area has had dead wood removed from the trees which was used to make mulch to feed the memorial garden. This area is maintained by the children.

A fire pit has been introduced this year which NC received training for and has shared this training with members of staff at school. The children are involved in den building (which incorporates engineering), outdoor art and nature hunts, all of which develop independence, resilience, confidence and engagement with the outdoor environment. The use of the fire pit has also promoted healthy eating.

The pond has been relined and refilled and is a superb eco system with newts and leaches. It is a fantastic resource for the children to find invertebrates and other species and is a resource which both adults and children find fascinating.

The willow tunnel was replanted with cuttings from Holt Island and was weaved by the children. In the future it will be a sustainable source of charcoal.

The woodland area has seen the trees trimmed and weeds removed and has been planted with native bulbs and plants. In the future it will be used as a quiet area as described by LR.

A wildlife bank was started two years ago and has over 35 species of plants and supports a range of bees, butterflies and invertebrates. It was cleared by hand by the children as part of their Tudor topic and the grass cut back made hay for the chickens.

The impact of improving the grounds has seen improved natural habitats and has allowed the teaching of biology topics in a practical way. It has also strengthened links within the local community.

Lots of teacher training is provided. On a monthly basis, NC sends all teachers an email with jobs to do to tend to plants etc. NC has also distributed assessment criteria and has compiled a portfolio of moderated work.

NC is working in collaboration with two other schools which has proved successful as these schools have adopted the new science recording methods HGPS are using.

Science resources have been improved with new kit being purchased and all of the resources have been organised orderly into biology, chemistry and physics.

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The impact of staff training has improved teacher confidence and subject knowledge as well as improving the range of recording methods.

Science in books is scrutinised by NC and feedback is given to all staff. Content, skills and recording methods are looked at.

External moderation has been very positive and the science leads at the two schools HGPS work with agreed with all judgements.

Children are spoken with about science and share their science books with NC. The children have a deep understanding and enjoyment of science.

Science engagement is strong with photography and cooking competitions, Open Gardens, Come To Learn Science sessions for parents, an inter-house science quiz and Science Week. Science Week saw a host of visitors come to school and various trips and visits which were enjoyed by all year groups.

The impact of all of these programmes has seen an increased and improved engagement of the children, flipped learning at home, cross curricular links, tackling of gender imbalance and has provided the children with application to life with career inspiration and further education thought processes.

The school will continue to work with the two other schools to create a new assessment process separating content and skills and assessing and understanding both. This will be an ongoing process to fine tune. This process will have a focus on assessing the children who are at greater depth and the SEND children

Next steps will be the continued integration into the curriculum in the KS2 Learning Zones with more in-depth tasks. The team will also ensure that the standard of writing and maths within science is equivalent to the National Curriculum.

The chair asked for huge thanks to LR KH and NC to be minuted for such high quality presentations and for their valuable time presenting to the Governors.

5. Minutes of the last meeting (on the school website)

http://hemingfordgrey.cambs.sch.uk/website/curriculum_committee/63187

and matters arising

- a) Jonathan Clarke has found a Visits and Trips policy which has been tailored to HGPS and will be circulated and added to the policy review spreadsheet.

Action JC/HC

- b) This was included in the Headteacher's report presented at the last full GB meeting.

- c) The EYFS policy review has been postponed until September due to time constraints with the Ofsted visit.

Action RBr

Signed Date.....

6. Governor Visit, Science week

The report has not yet been written due to time constraints with the Ofsted visit but will be reported at the next meeting.

Action HP/HC

7. Feedback from children's learning walk

This is ongoing and the item has been moved to the next Full GB meeting in September.

Action KF

8. Looking at Year 6 report covers

JC showed a few examples of the responses which Year 6 have given reflecting on their final year at HGPS. These responses will accompany their school reports. The children are taught how to write them but the responses are in their own words. The Governors praised the quality and maturity of work they saw.

9. Foundation Stage profile/Key Stage 1 assessment data

The EYFS profile will be submitted this week and the KS1 and KS2 is being finalised and will be sent next week.

10. AOB

JC reported on the external KS1 moderation which took place recently. The moderators were hugely impressed and all judgements were ratified. JC reported that all of the KS1 teachers did a sterling job in preparing for the moderation.

JC updated Governors that interviews for a teacher to cover maternity are taking place and asked for Governors to contact him if they are able to sit on the interview panel.

Action All

JC updated Governors that two teaching assistants have been appointed with one TA position to fill which has been advertised with interviews taking place on 24th July. JJ will advise JC if she is able to attend the interviews

Action JJ

RBu discussed the staff social which will be held at 4:30pm on Monday 23rd July at school. A sign-up sheet is in the staff room. HC will ask King Kids not to run their after school club on this evening and RBu will create a doodle poll and circulate to Governors

Action HC/RBu

Meeting closed at 8:20pm

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