



Bramham Newsletter

Excellence for All

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you and your children have had a successful and enjoyable first term in school.

We have achieved so many wonderful things over the Autumn Term; our children have had the opportunity to experience excellence in learning in all aspects of the curriculum.

This newsletter is intended as a highly informative document; within it you will find information about the strategic nature of our plans for our Schools and how this is realised on a day to day basis in Bramham Primary.

Should you have any questions about the contents of this newsletter or if you have any concerns in school, my Senior Leadership Team and I are available by appointment and I am often in both schools and available during each day; class teachers will always discuss with you any issues in the first instance.

In Bramham Primary School, our reputation continues to trail blaze and may I therefore take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and dedication to our School. Together, we achieve Excellence for All.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and peaceful Christmas; enjoy time with your families and friends and we look forward to seeing you in the new year for the start of term on 2nd January. Happy Christmas everyone, Mrs Richards, Executive Head Teacher.

School Development Planning—Strategic Vision

All schools have to decide where they need to develop their curriculum / staff / provision for children and in this way, a School Development Plan is formed; this is usually data-driven and is formed based on end of Key Stage results. In Bramham Primary School, we achieved our best ever KS2 SATs results last year, officially ranking in the top 20% of all schools nationally for Maths and Reading and in the top 40% for Writing. Writing has been highlighted nationally as an area whereby the (new in 2015) National Curriculum expectations have exceeded those which had previously been taught. This is a good thing; it raises standards however it does mean that children, having been taught the previous curriculum in school, have had some gaps in their knowledge and the data nationally demonstrates this. In Bramham Primary School we have worked relentlessly to 'close the gaps' for children; your child may currently be part of an intervention group; a booster group; a Boys' Writing Club and/or may take home some additional homework on occasion.

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School Development Planning—Strategic Vision (Continued)

We have 5 Major Intentions within our School Development Plan this year:

To target WRITING throughout the Federation to ensure good progress is made from KS1 to end of KS2.

This is with a particular focus on the achievement of our boys—our data demonstrates that girls tend to perform slightly better than boys in writing—this tends to be a national trend. Last year we held a highly successful ‘Men Behaving Dadly’ which inspired and motivated both boys and girls in their reading and writing. Please do be in touch if you would like to participate again in something similar this year; the children loved the day and we saw an impact into boys’ reading and their engagement with texts which was truly inspiring!



To continue to develop SITE (Science / Innovation / Technology / Engineering) within the Federation for a unique, reinvigorated and integrated approach to the delivery of Science, Computing, Innovation and DT across the Federation.



This bespoke and innovative development in our curriculum will allow our teachers to plan exciting and innovative lessons which cover several aspects of the curriculum through a topic-based approach. The topic will be inspiring and engaging for the children and the development of SITE has already facilitated many exciting links with our community and parents who have professions linked to Science, Innovation, Technology and Engineering. If you feel you could contribute to our curriculum in sharing your expertise, please do not hesitate to be in touch with Mrs Kirby (Bramham) or Mr Rugg (Shadwell) - we would welcome your contribution!

To continue the development of Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and the integration of meaningful Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural links (SMSC), including British Values and Social, Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) across the Federation, impacting on day to day learning and living and developing our ethos and family culture across the Federation.

It is required by law that our children are in receipt of quality PSHE teaching; that SMSC is a thread running through all aspects of our curriculum and that we become increasingly aware of SEMH (in a response to national data and statistics for mental health). In our Federation, we have, through the School Development Plan and through skilful planning and collaboration, designed lessons and planning which engages SMSC on a daily basis (you will note our ‘Ethos Statements’ throughout school and tweeted to all parents on a Monday—these are integral to SMSC learning.) We are currently working as a Federation to being ‘Mindmate’ accredited in acknowledgment of the SEMH work done for our children.



To engage further with meaningful curricular links and purposeful learning to ENRICH learning across the Federation.



This objective overlaps with the three areas outlined above; incorporating SITE with Writing and SMSC into all areas of the curriculum so that all aspects of the curriculum can be taught through a topic. The theme of our Topics will be ‘Freedom’ next term.

To continue to increase further CAPACITY within the Federation, fostering a culture for leadership, responsibility and accountability through subject development and to continue to nurture and teach new staff, ensuring their development in the provision of ‘Excellence for All’.

Through training and in developing our staff, we build capacity and capability. Most teachers are responsible for a subject area however all staff are members of a curriculum team and in turn, their knowledge and expertise ensures all children have access to excellence in teaching and learning. We have a highly skilled and dedicated team within the Federation and all teachers are held accountable on a termly basis for every child’s progress. The Executive Head Teacher and the Executive Deputy meet with each teacher on a termly basis to discuss provision and progress for your child; together they scrutinise work, books, data and hold pupil discussions. In this way, you can be assured that every child is receiving the very best and their education is being catered very specifically to meet their needs.



New Website

All schools have a statutory duty to publish specific information on their websites and as you know, over the last year, our websites are brand new—they have been fully updated and re-written. You can find out lots of information about the staff, governing body, curriculum and what your children have been doing over the last term on our sites...please do have a look! Policies are also available on the website for your reference and we have an up to date event calendar also easily accessible to use as your first port of call.



Follow us:



@BramhamShadwell

Shadwell and Bramham Federation Governors



Andy Briggs



Beverley Mitchell



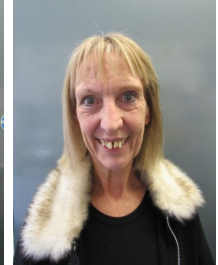
Ellie Fitzgerald



Jean Dent



Kate McKinlay



Kathryn
Wilkinson



Paul Menham



Sue Morgan
(Chair)



Mrs Wilson
(Deputy Head)



Mrs Richards
(Head)



John
Macintyre



Anthony
Blackwell

The Bramham Shadwell Federation has 12 Governors. Our Governors are selected through the Local Authority and by the Governing body based on their skills, knowledge and understanding. They are each allocated to a sub-committee and support the Head Teacher in leading the strategic direction of the school (including monitoring of the School Development Plan).

The Governors meet regularly as full and sub-committees to check compliance and statutory obligation for:

- Teaching and Learning
- Finance (including budgets and Health and Safety compliance)
- Pupil Support
- Strategic planning

Our Governors are regularly in school and talk with our children to discuss and feedback their opinions about new initiatives or procedures that happen in school.

Our Governors will be available at the next Parents' Evening in March and you will be able to talk with them or ask any questions you may have about school. We will write to you with more information nearer the time. More information about our Governors can be found on our website.

Trail-Blazing in the Bramham Shadwell Federation

In the Bramham Shadwell Federation, we are not only able to provide excellence to our children and families within Bramham and Shadwell Primary Schools, we also are very proud of the work we do to support education and children's well-being on a larger scale, leading the way within the Local Authority and supporting other schools and children in their academic and personal achievements:

Did you Know?

We are leading in Maths: Bramham Primary School (as part of the Federation) has been part of several new maths initiatives: we host the Leeds Learning Partnership (LLP) for Maths Mastery and Problem Solving for the Local Authority. Our Lead Practitioner is a Maths Mastery specialist. Hosting the LLP involves leading teacher research groups, drawing teachers from within the Federation and other schools in the Leeds region for development in Maths Mastery. We are at the forefront of developing Maths Mastery in the country and the impact of this development can be seen in our Maths results and the depth with which children are beginning to understand Maths.

We are leading in Leadership: The Executive Head Teacher is currently coaching/supporting other Head Teachers within the Local Authority with specific input around mirroring the outstanding SMSC/ SEMH provision within the Federation and in Learning Alliance work in sharing exemplary practice in rigorous performance Management and management structures. The Executive Head teacher is also the Head Teacher representative for the Joint Collaborative Committee for our group of North Leeds Schools in determining support schools receive.

We are leading in Support for Children: The Executive HT also takes a wider interest in the children from the 'Elmete' (part of North Leeds) region and has been asked to represent all schools in this area as part of the RES (Social Care) team. The RES team plan strategic advancements in Social Care expenditure to benefit the community and local schools. Our Federation hosts a termly 'Social Care Surgery' for our Social Care team and all Head Teachers in the area in developing effective protocols and systems between schools and provision for children in need of support.

We are leading in English: Our school has developed a progressive Grammar planning document which has broken down areas of the new National Curriculum to ensure clear progression for children throughout school. This document has been used as exemplary practice throughout the LA and is available for parents to use on the website. It continues to be a key planning tool for staff and, along with a focus on spelling, is gradually assisting teachers in closing the gap in writing.

We are leading in the Quality of our Work: KS2, KS1 and EYFS were moderated in Bramham (2016, 2017, 2016 respectively); Leeds Authority KS1 and EYFS Moderation training has requested and used *our* children's work for *their* sharing of exemplary practice throughout the city and with this, various other schools moderate with our school for writing.

We are leading in Sports Provision: This academic year, we are working towards achieving Healthy Schools Status for Bramham Primary; we were very proud that Bramham Primary achieved Schools Games Gold Award at the end of last academic year.

Promoting Healthy Lifestyles in School

SNACK TIME

Please can I remind all parents that the children are allowed to bring a **fruit snack** into school which they will be able to eat at break time. Children can bring a snack and keep it in their book bag / locker / tray. Alternatively, children can bring **25p** each day (in a named purse/wallet) for our **Tuck Shop**, which also sells lots of healthy fruit snacks.

Please can I politely inform parents that after Christmas, children will be offered a piece of fruit to replace snacks that are not fruit.



Our SCHOOL ETHOS

Our weekly Ethos Statements are visible throughout school; they are the focal point of our assemblies and they are tweeted each week to parents to talk through with children. Our teachers aim to include the purpose of the Ethos within their lessons and the children are able to share what the Ethos for the week is. The Ethos Statements were written by our children and they mirror the way our children have decided they would like the school to 'be' and feel.

These are our Ethos Statements for the coming half term:



We are wonderfully created. Look after one another.
Be yourself. You are amazing.
'Follow your dream with determination and passion' Reference: Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) – helped to draft UN declaration of human rights
Always look on the bright side of life.
With freedom comes responsibility
Forgive one another (Colossians 3:13)
Respect yourself and those around you



Goodbye Mrs Harland...we will miss you!



After eight years of dedicated work to the Federation, Mrs Harland is embarking on an exciting new career as a family law Personal Assistant.

Mrs Harland has been a great friend to many and always greets everyone with a warm smile; she will really be missed in our schools and I'm sure you will join me in wishing her all the best in her new job in the new year.

Thank you Mrs Harland for all your hard work, dedication and for the care and kindness you have shown our children over the last eight years, keep in touch!

We extend a warm welcome to Mrs Robins who will be working in the office in Shadwell (and occasionally Bramham) to replace Mrs Harland in January.

DON'T FORGET!

Friday 15th December



Christmas Jumper Day
£1.00 donations gratefully accepted!



Well Done to all the children who took part in our Reception / KS1 concert this week; they showed great talent and had learned all of their lines perfectly. We were so very proud of the confidence they demonstrated in being on stage and each one of them took great pride in their part.



CHRISTMAS CAROL DVDs

Please purchase these lasting memories for

only £5.00 from the office—they make fabulous gifts!

