

East Sheen Primary School

Headship Headlines October 2018

Firstly we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families. We hope you already feel part of our vibrant community and have settled into the new school year. We are very impressed with how well Reception children have embraced the start of their school journey and we look forward to sharing their educational experience with you.

School Improvement

As we approach the end of the first half term of the year we would like to share and celebrate our self-evaluation and school development priorities for the year ahead with you. School leadership involves in-depth analysis of progress and attainment data, understanding of educational direction and policy and listening to and working with stakeholders (children, parents, staff, governors, Local Authority, Achieving for Children and the local community). Our School priorities reflect findings from data analysis, reaction to pupil, parent and staff surveys, recent OFSTED updates and directives from the Department for Education.

Our excellent Key Stage SATs results last year, summarised below, demonstrated that our children are achieving at a very high level. They also make better than expected progress in all subjects.

		Key Stage 2		Key Stage 1	
		ESPS %	National Average [2017]	ESPS %	National Average [2017]
Reading, Writing and Maths combined		86	64	*	*
Reading	'Expected'	93	75	89.8	[76%]
	'Greater Depth'	*	*	39.8	[24%]
Writing	'Expected'	88	78	83	[68%]
	'Greater Depth'	40	[18%]	27.3	[16%]
Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar		91	78	*	*
Maths	Expected	93	76	94.3	[75%]
	'Greater Depth'	*	*	31.8	[21%]

* not measured

Our broad, engaging curriculum is designed to enable every child to make good progress whatever the starting point for that child's learning journey and high quality teaching, rigorous tracking of pupil assessment data and a wide range of interventions ensure targets are met.

We achieved all our targets last year with improvements in KS1 writing and in all our attainment and progress data at KS2. Our main focus for this year is to maintain positive progress scores in Reading, Writing and Maths. Our children performed very well in all types of questions in the KS2 SATs papers (well above national averages in all areas) but we have identified two areas on which to focus with

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the aim to improve children's understanding still further. In Reading we will focus on developing inferencing skills and in Maths we will focus on measures including ratio and proportion. Staff have already enjoyed training sessions delivered by experts in maths mastery teaching and teaching inference.

We work closely with our Governors to analyse academic results, the curriculum and other issues relating to teaching and learning. The Teaching and Learning subcommittee has written to congratulate the pupils and the staff on an excellent set of results in national tests. These results reflect an enormous amount of hard work and dedication, and it is particularly pleasing to see ambitious targets being met across the curriculum, with ESPS demonstrating extremely creditable results in what is the highest-performing borough in the country. The Governors also seek to understand the narratives behind the data, and to understand and appreciate that the life and success of the school extends way beyond the headline results, however impressive they are.



Wellbeing

With mental health a national focus we are proud that this has always been a priority at our school. Last year we began our journey to achieving the Wellbeing Award for Schools-as we realised we already had so much in place to support children's wellbeing. We are fortunate to be able to offer drama therapy and a range of social and emotional interventions as outreach from our Phoenix Room (our provision for children with social, emotional and mental health challenges). The interventions include friendship groups, social skills groups, anger management, raising self-esteem, building resilience, mentoring and counselling and other bespoke interventions as required. We have a wealth of expertise within our school on which to draw and also buy the support from Achieving for Children of educational psychologists and school nursing services. We are delighted that we have been able to introduce fortnightly drop-in sessions with the school nurse, Emily Kelly, who can give advice on a wide range of issues, from sleep problems and bed wetting to anxiety and bereavement.

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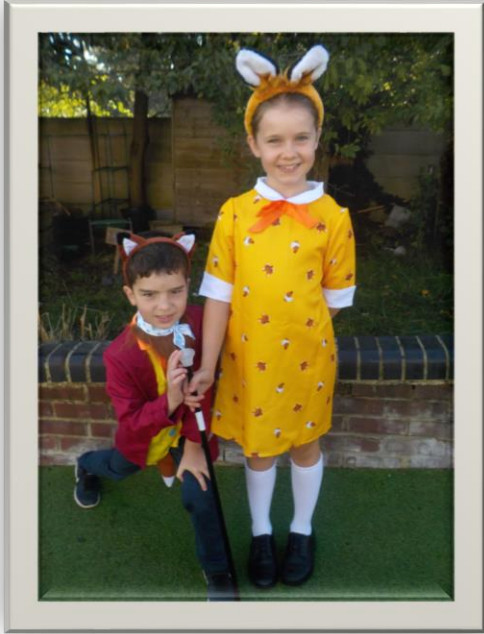
We hope that by offering this service we can support the wellbeing of parents too. We also hope the range of events put on by our amazing PTA enables parents to feel part of our special community. Our staff love working here and visitors always comment on our friendly, inclusive environment. Supply teachers ask to come back. Teachers who have taken maternity leave come back. Many of us have been at the school longer than we wish to confess to remember! This is a good place to work, because we have a fantastic community.



As responsible citizens living in a city, we are also focused on doing all we can to mitigate the impact of pollution on children in our care. The fantastic fund raising by our PTA together with grants we applied for have enabled us to build a green wall to improve the school environment. We continue to develop the gardens and areas at the back of the school and meet regularly with groups campaigning for air quality. We have had several meetings with TfL where we have highlighted road safety as well as requested pollution reduction measures-we need electric buses on the Upper Richmond Road! This is a global, national, local issue and we will be vocal in supporting any campaign to improve air quality in this area. We have an active Green Team of children who care passionately about the environment. They will be looking at ways to reduce plastic pollution as well as to improve air quality. Our new building has an air filtering system and all air monitoring across the school and grounds has shown safe levels well below EU required standards. We will continue to monitor air quality and expect improvement after the measures the school has taken. The Green Team has researched different indoor plants with filtering qualities and we will be introducing these in to every classroom this year... (every little helps!) Air quality monitoring shows safe levels throughout the school, which is good news, but we cannot be complacent and must continue to push for legislation that protects us all, but particularly our children.

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Safeguarding

We were delighted with the results of our pupil satisfaction survey at the end of last year which showed that 97% always feel safe in school, 98% agree teachers care about them and listen to them, 95% agree school deals with bullying very well and 98% agree the school helps them to respect other people. We always analyse the results of the survey carefully and follow up with individual children if there is any indication of need. Staff received annual safeguarding training as part of the INSET programme at the start of the year to ensure we are all up to date with latest legislation and advice.

We are delighted with the new school lunch provision and encourage parents to sign up. All food is prepared from fresh produce on site. We have kept prices down in spite of the increase in food prices and believe our meals are great value for money. Do come and try one!

The weekly newsletter keeps you up to date with everything that is going on in school-we are a busy place! And that is why we love what we do. Please give consent, if you possibly can, for the school to use photographs to celebrate all that we do. New regulations around data protection, including sharing photographs, have made producing newsletters of any kind more complicated. Pictures tell a story in a way words can't! We love to show you pictures of all that is going on in school, but without your permission, we can't. We will always respect decisions not to allow the sharing of photographs. We will also ensure full names are not shared and pictures will only be used to celebrate success and school events.

We are very excited about the year ahead and look forward to working with you all.