

Barlows Primary School

Spring LSIP Visit – Note of Visit – Monday 19th March 2018 (1.15 pm – 3.25 pm)

FAO: Mr David Robinson, Headteacher

Dear David,

Please find below, my notes following the visit I made to Barlows on 19th March. I have written this up as a Note of Visit rather than including it in the standard proforma we use as part of School Improvement Liverpool's termly visits, as we didn't refer to any positional data as you are awaiting the embedding of systems to ensure that your data sets are reliable.

During my visit we discussed a range of themes...

"Book Looks" – Mathematics 16/03/18

- With the exception of Y6, lots of work to done
- There is a lack of focus on presentation – books are quite scruffy
- Marking is failing to have an impact
- Most feedback is in the form of "Well done"
- There is no consolidation marking and little evidence of teachers addressing misconceptions
- No challenge e.g. 20 questions all the same
- Lack of rigour
- Evidence of poor subject knowledge from some children and some staff
- "Problem Solving Friday" is currently the only opportunity many children have to solve problems.

Mathematics expectations needs to be raised so school is investigating the use of MEP, Mathematics Enhancement Programme, pioneered by Professor David Burgess from the University of Plymouth.

Singapore Maths was also mentioned. LSIP encouraged HT to visit Our Lady's Bishop Eton where Singapore Maths was introduced three years ago. LSIP will contact Mrs Deborah Bostock at OLBE to introduce David.

English

- The school is now introducing a Handwriting & Presentation Policy across all subjects.
- Nelson Handwriting Scheme now purchased for use from Reception through to Y4.
- Weekly handwriting session is non-negotiable.
- The school has introduced new timetables for the Summer term.
- **KS1** – Phonics and Guided Reading every day plus weekly handwriting and weekly spelling tests.
- Teachers will weave in opportunities to tell stories every week.
- There will be no more Spanish lessons in KS1.
- **KS2** – no more afternoon playtimes.

- Improved Guided Reading sessions.
- Y3 and Y4, handwriting and spelling as per KS1.
- Assemblies re-jigged; now two assemblies per week – Monday with HT, Friday, phase assemblies.
- Wordsmith Literacy scheme of work is being introduced.
- Currently there is not enough time for extended writing opportunities.
- The library is going to be revamped over the course of the Summer term and the Micro Librarian system introduced – David has already looked at the library facilities in Monksdown Primary.
- LSIP recommends David visit some other recent libraries introduced in Liverpool schools – e.g. Childwall Valley Primary and St Francis de Sales Juniors – LSIP will make the necessary introductions.
- Lesson observations in the Spring Term have been focused on Literacy; over the term, the quality of Literacy lessons overall has moved from RI to Good.
- In the Summer term, lesson observations will focus on Mathematics, as well as on Teaching Assistants.

Assessment

- The use of the O Track system has been refined – can now be used with more accuracy to predict Y6 outcomes and will hopefully lead to more purposeful Pupil Progress meetings, with a greater focus on individual children.
- In O Track, school is expecting 6 points of progress per year – this will be linked to Teacher Appraisal in Autumn 1.
- There is potential for O Track to be used in the Children’s Centre – 75%-80% of Barlows children have been through the Children’s Centre.
- HT is considering a possible TLR 3 for an EYFS link role to Children’s Centre.
- The second set of data from w/c 19th March will be entered on O Track.
- The emerging picture of progress isn’t great but is only based on one assessment.
- Assessment tests being undertaken w/c 19th March will be marked by Middle Leaders.

Other matters discussed

- Post Ofsted Action Plan is being added to link closely to progress data and strengthen outcomes.
- Remote Access for SLT – LSIP will ask Brian Borthwick at Liverpool City Council’s ICT Team to contact school to discuss requirements; this could be provided via TRUSTnet.
- The school’s SENCO and EYFS lead will just lead on EYFS from September.
- Claire Bakstad will take over the role of SENCO from the start of the new school year.
- LSIP recommended HT contact Dave Cadwallader, SIL Governor Services to discuss governing body matters (dave.cadwallader@si.liverpool.gov.uk)
- INSET June – Safeguarding training featuring Prevent and FGM
- INSET September - Safeguarding training featuring Safer Internet Training
- Safeguarding Audit scheduled for February 2018 was postponed for personal reasons (Auditor, ex HMI).

I trust this is an accurate reflection and summary of our discussions.

Best regards,
Paul

Paul Bradshaw
Senior School Improvement Officer – New Technologies & Online Safety
Liverpool School Improvement Partner

paul.bradshaw@si.liverpool.gov.uk

07739225968