

8th September 2107

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all had a lovely summer break. On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to warmly welcome you all back to a new school year. All the children look exceptionally smart and it is so lovely to see the Reception children settling in so beautifully!

The end of the summer term was extremely busy and arrived so quickly that I was unable to celebrate with you the highlights from national assessments in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6.

Pupils in Reception completed the Foundation Stage Profile and pupils in Year 1 carried out the phonics screening test. In addition, we received our SATS results for Key Stage 1 and 2 based on teacher assessment and national testing.

For pupils in the Early Years (Reception), we were pleased that the gap between the achievement of boys and girls has diminished and that their achievement is now more in line with each other! This is great news!

83% of pupils achieved the required standard in the Year 1 phonics test. This is fabulous as it means that year on year for the last 4 years, the percentage of pupils achieving the required standard has steadily increased. This year, we have exceeded the 2016 national average. (national averages for 2017 are still not confirmed). The Read, Write Inc initiative which we introduced has certainly had a really positive impact.

The Key Stage 1 results were very pleasing.

The school is above the national average in reading, writing and maths for those pupils working at or above the expected standard. This is brilliant!

At greater depth, the school is broadly in line with the national average in writing.

Key Stage 2 pupils were challenged with taking the new style of tests based on the new curriculum.

The school is above the national average in Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling and Reading, Writing and Maths combined, for those pupils who are working at or above the expected standard.

The school is above the national average for those pupils working at greater depth in Reading and Reading, Writing and Maths combined. In Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, the school is well above the national average. (18% higher).

The school is broadly in line with the national average in Writing for those children working at the expected standard.

Children's progress is calculated using a complex formula by the Department for Education. We will not have the validated data until later this term. However, our own analysis indicates that progress in this particular year group has been positive, particularly in Reading, Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling.

We are really encouraged by the improvements from last year although we acknowledge that there are areas that the school still needs to continue working on. We already have plans in place to address how we are going to make improvements in the curriculum and have already made changes to the way certain subjects are delivered in Key Stage 2. Initial feedback has been really positive.

A couple of weeks before we broke up for the summer holiday, as you are aware, we were visited by Ofsted. The timing was difficult being so near the end of term when we were rehearsing for the show and at a time when we had scheduled Enrichment Week. This meant that English and Maths lessons were not operating in their normal format. In addition, the individual Key Stage 2 SATS results were published on the day of the inspection and these had to be checked individually for discrepancies, a very time consuming exercise. This gave no time whatsoever to make a detailed analysis of the results on that day, as the Senior Leadership Team were required to participate in all the observations, interviews and inspection procedures from 8am each morning.

We were extremely disappointed with the outcome of the inspection and feel that it does not reflect what is actually going on in our school and certainly does not do the school justice. We also feel that there are a number of sweeping statements, broad generalisations and contradictions within the report that we feel are inaccurate which we have already raised with Ofsted. However the inspection process itself is very inflexible and data driven and the report has a set format of starting each of the sections with the areas requiring improvement first and only noting the strengths after this. Having said that, the inspection team did acknowledge some of our strengths, even though they failed to highlight how marvellous the school choir is, as this is certainly an outstanding area.

The inspection team noted the following strengths in the report:

- Pupils feel safe due to the caring ethos and strong values within the school. They know how to keep themselves safe including online.
- Pupils take pride in their work and show respect for the ideas of others. They are polite and kind to each other and to adults.
- Pupils understand how to stay healthy. Leaders have used funds from the physical education and sport premium effectively to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles.
- The enrichment curriculum provides pupils with opportunities to learn about life in modern Britain and encourages pupils to be ambitious for their future.
- Pupils make good progress in reading in the Early Years and in Key Stage 1. They are motivated to read widely, including at home.
- The governing body has a clearer understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement than at the time of the previous inspection. Governors are now providing greater challenge to senior leaders.

The Inspection team highlighted a number of areas for improvement which we have already identified and have been working hard on. Despite our actual SATs results and highlighted strengths, we have still been judged as requiring improvement. The Inspection Report can be found on our school website or accessed via the Ofsted website. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office for a hard copy.

On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to reassure all parents that we are continuing to work exceptionally hard and have the support of both the Local Authority and the Diocese in making further improvements and ensuring that we provide the very best for the children of St Anne's School. We have ambitious plans in place to drive school improvement further and we look forward to a very successful year ahead and working in strong partnership with parents.

Yours faithfully,

Claire Sierotko

Headteacher