



Friday 1st April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Continued School Improvement / Annual Parent/Carer Survey

Although with the colder weather it may not feel like it, we have reached the end of term and our Easter holiday is here! I have just lead an assembly with Years 1 to 6 and we have enjoyed reflecting on the many successes that this term has brought. Please do read this half term's edition of Hedgelines for a wealth of information, it's a lovely celebration of all the children are learning.

There's also a lot going on 'behind the scenes' to ensure that we continue to evaluate our strengths and build upon these and to address any areas where we feel we need to improve further. At the beginning of March, our local committee of governors attended a session with the Senior Leadership Team where we collectively reviewed our School Improvement Plan for this academic year. This enabled us to discuss the progress we are making against the targets we have set and have a clear understanding of the priorities for the second half of the academic year and beyond. Our governors also make regular visits into the school to meet with teachers and other staff, as appropriate, which enables them to see first-hand all the work we are undertaking. Last term, governors joined staff on our November INSET Day and met with Subject Leaders to find out more about our curriculum and the priorities for each subject area; the quality of education is always a key priority. Hopefully you will have read my letter to parents (sent on 14th March) about the work we are doing on curriculum development, specifically our Knowledge Organisers. Please do visit the curriculum pages on our website. This is just one aspect of our School Improvement Plan. Some other key priorities are described below:

Reading continues to take high priority at Barrow Hedges. With many new reading books purchased in 2020/21, we have bought more high-quality texts this academic year. English and Phonics Leads work collaboratively and have robust action plans which are regularly reviewed. The Reading page on the website has been updated and this now reflects our reading curriculum. Please do take a look!

Our revised Behaviour Policy was ratified by the governors (November 2021) which ensures that it is fully compliant with statutory safeguarding documents (such as Keeping Children Safe in Education). The last review meant that our work on Zones of Regulation was included in the policy. Our Behaviour Lead, Mrs Duncan, analyses trends in behaviour on a half termly basis and this analysis is disseminated to Year Group Leaders and lunchtime staff as appropriate. KS1 and KS2 Behaviour Mentors, Miss Doble and Mrs Duffin, have been deployed and work with children who have may have received red and yellow cards more often than their peers. A new feature of their work is 'restorative practice' (as suggested by Anchored Schools in their Safeguarding Audit). Mrs Duffin has undertaken research into this and as a result, delivered training to TAs and Midday Supervisors. Mrs Duncan and I carry out frequent and dynamic monitoring of playground provision and this feeds into updates to the staff team i.e. what is working well and what improvements can continue to be made. The PTA have agreed to fund £5k for new playground equipment and murals – more on this to follow! We have already begun to 'zone' the infant playground which the children have really approved of.



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With some initial disruption due to Covid (i.e. children from different year groups not being able to mix together through two sustained periods of being in amber measures), School Council are now operating really successfully. Each class has a representative (Year 2 to Year 6) and these children have met to formulate a Child Friendly School Improvement Plan. They have hosted an assembly recently and a key piece of work is supporting Mrs Duncan and I with the selection of playground equipment and sharing ideas on further improving lunchtimes. There is now an engaging display in the main corridor highlighting the key priorities the children are working on and there are suggestion boxes around school. The School Council will also visit the Houses of Parliament in the Summer Term. Again, due to Covid, there has been a limit to what other pupil groups can achieve. However, the Horis Hippos have received training and are supporting children effectively at playtimes. The children tell us, through our regular 'pupil voice surveys' that they love having this peer support. Children are very clear in describing how pupils are making a tangible contribution to the life of the school. We will be focusing on re-establishing Eco-Warriors and Digital Leaders next term or early in the new academic year.

There are a number of completed and ongoing projects to ensure our learning environment is outstanding. Hopefully parents enjoyed having a walk around the school at our Parent/Teacher Consultation Evenings. We are especially proud of our mural in the Year 1 outdoor area and new Year 3 and 4 class signs. You will know that we have undertaken a thorough audit of all our library books and we are delighted with our new library/research centre in the Discovery Hub. Have a look in Hedgelines to see the super quotes that our mural lady has painted in this room. There has been a renewed focus on displays around the school. We have decided that those in the main corridor link to key priorities in our SIP (e.g. Safeguarding, British Values and School Council). Around the school, we are ensuring that key knowledge is displayed and there are now QR codes on many displays which link to associated pages on our school website which visitors can use outside of school hours (e.g. parents' evenings).

It has been so fantastic to have parents join us in school this term. A key priority for us is to *'ensure that stakeholders have a firm and common understanding of our curriculum intent and implementation and their part in supporting children to reach their full potential'*. As such, we have worked hard to ensure that we are providing parents with key information e.g. through running parent workshops. Having used Teams successfully through the lockdowns, we are now able to run online meetings as well as in-person ones, and this has meant that more parents have been able to join us. Furthermore, these are able to be recorded and placed on our website – do take a look so that you can support your child with their learning at home. Mrs Rondeau has been busy organising some Coffee Mornings for parents of children with SEND and those eligible for pupil premium – again, more on this to follow!

Usually, we would send out our Annual Parent/Carer Survey in July, with the end of year reports and use this feedback in September when writing our School Improvement Plan for the forthcoming year. However, this year, we have brought this forward to the end of the Spring Term as we are keen to take your views and ideas and really have time to digest these, with the aim of acting on any feedback in a timely manner. As such, we have set up an online survey which can be found [here](#). I ask that you take the time to complete this as we really do value your feedback and this helps us with continued school improvement and establishing what we are doing well with. The survey is open until 30th April.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you all a very happy Easter break with your families.

Kind regards,



Mrs Louise Wood
Headteacher