

March 2021 Newsletter



'Thrive and Achieve Together'



Fleecefield reflecting
one year on

Welcome to our Spring Term newsletter! In April, Children First Academy Trust becomes two years old - HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!!

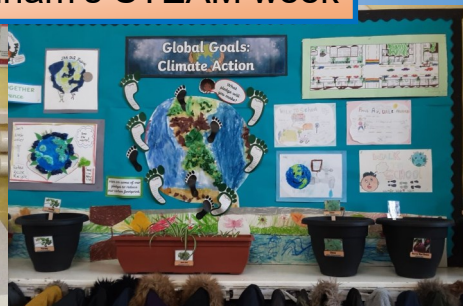
As I write, the media is reminding us that, this time last year, we were moving into our first lockdown. Little did we know at the time how this would affect us all, both personally and professionally. Looking back is always important and we can learn from our experiences along the way. We also look forward, hoping that we will return to our 'new normal' very soon and be able to put in place all that we have learned through this time to make the educational offer we give to our children, even better than before. One of the key things we have learned during this year is the value of working together. We have all felt the support from each other across our schools and also the challenge we have been able to give each other through expecting the highest quality provision both remotely and in school. I am very proud of the way our schools have risen to these challenges and I thank you, once again for the commitment you continue to show to our children's well-being and education. Kate Turnpenney

Speech and Language Provision

Many of the children across our schools are in desperate need of high quality speech and language support and this is always a very scarce resource. So when the SENCOs from the Trust schools asked whether the Trust could fund extra provision, we looked closely at our budget and decided to pilot working with a S+L consultant for the spring and summer term. The SENCOs have been so impressed by the provision even during this very difficult time when it has had to be online and the selected children have really gained from it. This is what we can do when we work together and hopefully it is something we can continue to finance into the future.

Meet the vice-chair of Trustees– Neil Yeomans

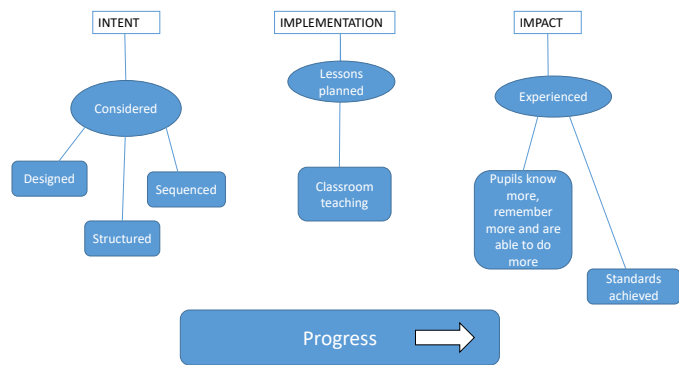
I have been involved with Children First, and the planning for it, since I retired in early 2018 and have just passed my third anniversary! My career was spent mainly in the City of London in Finance, Audit and Accounting working for one of the largest global organisations in these fields and this has meant that I was relatively well placed to take on the role of chair of the Resources, Risk and Audit Committee - in addition I am vice chair of the Trust. I see my role as making sure that we spend as much money as we can on the education of our children whilst ensuring that the Trust remains financially stable. Being completely new to the world of education 3 years ago I can honestly say that I have really enjoyed it and have no regrets about submitting my application - even though I did not know what I was letting myself in for!



Spotlight on Raynham's STEAM week

Developing our Curriculum

The School Improvement team continues to work with curriculum leaders across the schools to create our Trust Curriculum which allows schools to build from the overall Intent and structure into their own school's bespoke curriculum. The 2019 OFSTED framework encourages school leaders to consider their curriculum carefully, ensuring that it reflects the needs of their pupils and the values of their school, whilst being grounded in the high standards of the National Curriculum. Once confident that the structures for this are in place within the school, it is crucial that this can be translated into the classroom through effective planning and quality first teaching. Only then can we be confident that our children will be making the progress they need to make.



The new approach: a focus on building children's knowledge, ensuring that they know more, remember more and can do more as a result of our teaching. This is a whole school curriculum and not just a year group one. Therefore understanding our place in our children's learning journey for each subject is key.

Spotlight on Early Years



Led by Sophie Chaloner, our Early Years Leaders, Rebecca (Brettenham), Cidgem (Fleecefield), Aimee (Galliard) and Hatice (Raynham) are already working very well together. Changes are afoot in Early Years with the new statutory EYFS framework and the new statutory Reception Baseline Assessment both coming in from September 2021. In addition, new

Development Matters guidance which much of EY assessment is based on, has also been produced, coming into effect from September. This will keep our team busy but, through working together, we will hopefully be able to lighten the load. Significant work has also been completed to develop our curriculum within EY to create a well-planned and sequenced journey that links to the rest of the school. Recent School Improvement Advisor visits at several of our schools have commented on the good work done already around the curriculum in Early Years.



Online CPD opportunity from Enfield Education Service and Children First Academy Trust

Julie Fisher Webinar

Interacting or interfering: the role of the adult in early learning

Hear Professor Julie Fisher share her expertise in adult-child interactions in early education

- Consider what constitutes 'effective' interaction
- Examine how adults 'tune in' to children's thinking
- Discuss strategies to use when extending children's learning
- Explore how to extend children's language and communication effectively through conversation

Half Day Webinar

Thursday 20th May 9am to 12 noon or Tuesday 25th May 9am to 12 noon

To book: email michelle.williams@enfield.gov.uk

Cost: £50 per person
Schools who have bought back to the PL offer have one place for no charge based on the original list for this event.

Audience: Early years leaders, teachers and practitioners

Children First - co-hosting Early Years training with Enfield