

December 2021

Newsletter



'Thrive and Achieve Together'

This Autumn term has seen a cautious return to near normality in our schools. It has been so welcome and has meant that we have been able to teach without the confines of bubbles etc.

It also means that we have been able to share practice across the Trust and I want to thank all the teachers for their involvement in the moderation we carried out in December. It was so good to hear how useful this was to meet teachers from similar year groups, to look at books together and to look around the schools. We can all learn so much from just going to other schools.

We've also had our first geography and history leaders meetings, led by David and Sarah from the School Improvement Team. Seeing how each school is planning for their curriculum, sharing our common language and understanding as well as looking at the outcomes in books, was really valuable to everyone involved. Linda will lead the science leaders meeting in January.

Please do take every opportunity to get together and learn from each other. We describe ourselves as a 'restless Trust', always looking for how we can improve at Trust level, school level and individual level. In this way, we will ensure we provide the best for our children.

We are currently in the process of advertising and appointing a new CEO for the Trust. As soon as we know who this is, I will let you know.

Kate Turnpenney

Spotlight on COVID

As we come to the end of this Autumn term, I am grateful that, for most of it, we haven't felt such a large impact from COVID as previously. Over the last few days, it feels as if the issues are creeping closer again. As leaders, we will be monitoring Government guidance over the break, and working with Enfield council, to be ready to step back up as necessary to put more systems in place to mitigate spread. We will continue to do our very best to ensure our children receive the best education we can give them, whilst taking into account staff well-being during these strange times.

Vaccinations including the boosters, are by far the best way to keep us all safe and to enable our schools and the wider society to function. If you have not yet been vaccinated, please give this very serious consideration.

In addition, please make sure you are testing as often as possible. Both vaccinations and on-going testing are our best line of defence—please take this on board!

Take a look at our new brochure which shows what our Trust is all about.

<https://bit.ly/3m0FvEi>



Changes around the Trust

Caroline Clifford is now the permanent Headteacher at Galliard primary school and we wish her and the school well as they move forward together.

All of our schools are now using Read Write Inc to deliver their phonics teaching. One of the real benefits of this is that we can work together and share best practice. We also have support from Arlene, our RWI consultant, who provides very high quality training for us during the year.

OFSTED will not allow us to make any excuses for our phonics scores, and rightly so in that reading is so key for our children. If they can master the decoding aspect of reading early, it gives them a much better chance of being a good reader and enjoying reading later on.

The Trust has been carrying out roofing work which is nearing completion at Fleecefield, Galliard and Wilbury. A new boiler system has been installed at Brettenham and a new water system at Raynham. Plans are already underway for how to allocate our capital funding for 2022.

Our Curriculum—

the Implementation phase!

Thank you to all teachers for the hard work they are putting into planning new lessons and units of work for our children across the curriculum. This will take time to embed but leaders can already see the way teaching and learning in the classroom is improving. What we are seeing particularly, is the way children are gaining knowledge which they previously did not have, particularly in history and geography, which are our current focus.

Keeping it simple is our new mantra - planning is essential as is seeing the unit of work as a whole, from start to finish, but trying to plan too much only muddies the water for our children. We want them to retain key knowledge and therefore our lessons need to reflect this. This year is a time of learning for us all, but we are confident that we are on the right journey with the curriculum.

THANK YOU SUPPORT STAFF

THANK YOU—to you all for the immense efforts you have put in over the last nearly two years! I particularly want to thank those support staff who have stepped up in so many ways; covering in the classrooms, ordering dinner vouchers, managing pupil attendance, supporting our families, keeping our sites clean, and many, many more ways. This has been a very tough period for everyone and so many have gone above and beyond to make sure our children are safe, happy and get the best we can give. Thank you!

Out and about with Fleecefield this term—Epping Forest, Science Museum, London Transport Museum and the library!



HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL AND HERE'S TO A BETTER
2022 FOR EVERYONE!