

Year Review 2014 -15

A summary of some of the key achievements, developments and challenges from 2014 - 15

Chris Holder – Headteacher.



Progress and Attainment

End of Key Stage 2

Year 6 SATs results at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) were, once again, very good, an improvement on last year and in excess of the national outcomes

Level 4 or better (L4+) is the expected standard for a pupil at the end of KS2. In 2015 we achieved the following percentages at L4+:

Reading 92% (89%)

Writing 82% (82%)

Maths 95% (87%)

(National results)

In addition, for the second year in succession we achieved a level 6 in maths.

In terms of progress pupils are expected to make at least 2 levels of progress from KS1 to KS2 i.e. a level 2 to a level 4. In 2015 we achieved **100% 2 levels progress** in reading, writing and maths.

End of Key Stage 1 (Year 2)

By the end of Key Stage 1 (KS1) pupils are expected to attain a level 2b or better (L2b+). In 2015 we achieved the following percentages at L2b+:

Reading 61% (46%)

Writing 59% (43%)

Maths 61% (50%)

(2014 results)

As you will see the results were a great improvement on the previous year's outcomes. In addition pupils in the year group made excellent progress, well in excess of that normally seen in Y2: 5.4 APS in reading, 5.4 APS in writing and 6.0 APS in maths.

Foundation Stage (F2)

A "Good" level of performance is defined as having achieved the expected level in the early learning goals in the prime areas of learning and the early learning goals in the specific areas of maths and literacy.

2013: In Lowfield the percentage of pupils developing a good level of development was: **21.7%**

2014: In Lowfield the percentage of pupils developing a good level of development was: **50.9%**

2015: In Lowfield the percentage of pupils developing a good level of development was: **61.4%**

This result shows a **10.5% improvement** on the previous year and includes pupils who joined the school very late in the year with complex needs.

Phonics Screening

In Y1 all pupils are tested to check their phonics ability – this is a good indicator of their ability to decode words and read texts. In 2015 our results improved for the third year in a row and at **78.2%** are better than the national figure (77%).

Pupils who don't pass the test in Y1 resit the assessment in Y2. At our school the percentage of Y2 pupils passing this test was **93.2%**, compared to 66% nationally

Progress across the School

2014 saw the removal of levels of attainment in all year groups except for Y2 and Y6. In all other year groups we are now tracking pupils using the STAT Sheffield Materials.

In Y2 and Y6 **progress is again accelerated** (i.e. pupils make better progress than would be expected) **in core subjects'** i.e. reading writing and maths.

Progress has been accelerated, broadly across the school, up to 2013-14, year on year since 2009-10. In 2014-15 (where we are still recording in the same manner) this continued in Y2 and Y6.

Community / Charity Events

This year, once again, we have been involved in a greater number of community initiatives and charity events than in previous years

Christmas Sing: Our Y5 pupils took part in this community event at Sheffield Cathedral. The event was organised and led by Mrs Bennet.

Book Fair: Early in the year Helen Hitchens (AHT) organised a book fair at the school. This was well supported by our families and many books were bought for children to enjoy at home. The fair was repeated later in the year with a similar positive outcome.

Road Safety / Pedestrian Training: A number of activities were arranged to ensure that our pupils, supported by parents and carers, could cross the busy roads around our school safely.

Harvest Collection: Following an assembly, where we all learnt about homeless people living in Sheffield and around the country, pupils and staff donated food items to the cathedral's Archer project for the homeless.

Christmas Shows: This year we had two productions; one for each key stage. The performances were, once again, brilliantly arranged and directed by Anne Bennett. The performances were very well attended.

Gateway Project: The school continues to admit many children each year who are refugees. These children are a great addition to our school and are supported by the Gateway Project.

Sport Day: Due to rising numbers, we can unfortunately no longer hold a sports day for the whole school. Simon Cotton organised and led therefore two sports days, one for each key stage on the field next to the school. The events were well supported by our families and the children enjoyed a wide range of races and events – medals were awarded for the top three places in all events.

Family Learning: In response to a number of requests we organised a number of family learning workshops this year. The events were held at the Umix centre to better accommodate numbers.

School Council: Richard Green again led in this area. The council gives pupils the opportunity to help improve our school and is a vehicle for “pupil voice”. This year the council made links and visited Hartington Primary School, in Derbyshire; the school where Mr Dowson (Y5) began his career. The visit was a great success, made the local papers and a return visit has been arranged

BBC Radio: Paulette Edwards again visited the school in the autumn term to record an interview with a group of our pupils. The pupils, supported by Jayne Kilby, gave a good account of themselves and the interview was broadcast on BBC radio Sheffield.

Other Charity Events: Children in Need and a number of other charities were well supported by the school community with several hundred pounds being raised through the sale of cakes, dressing up and by collecting loose change.

Section 3

Developments to the School Site

Over the course of the year we have continued the development of our school buildings and outdoor spaces.

Classrooms / Hall etc: The quality and extent of our provision continues to improve.

- Additional display boards have been installed in teaching and communal spaces to enable pupils work to be better acknowledged and celebrated.
- A new sound system has been installed in the hall to enhance assemblies and performances.
- Curtains have been installed in the hall over the summer to enable us to show films more easily and to improve the acoustics in this busy space.
- The hall floor has been cleaned / polished
- Blinds have been fitted in the staffroom – staff can now take a break without being stared at by children in the playground!
- Toilets in the KS2 building have been refurbished

- Break-out rooms in all KS2 classrooms have been fully refurbished to make these spaces better for working in.
- The old AVA room had been fully redecorated to create a more useful teaching space.
- The office area has been repainted creating a good first impression of our school
- The KS2 building has been insulated, during the summer holiday as part of our project to improve the conditions for learning in this building. At October half term we hope to, finally, get air conditioning installed.

Outside Space: There have been a number of improvements to our outdoor space this year.

- Helen Hitchens (AHT for EYFS / KS1) has been in school over the summer to further develop our F2 outdoor provision.
- The garden area has been tidied / weeded during the summer and new benches have been installed.
- Three new trees have been planted to replace the old ones in the KS2 playground to provide shade for pupils.
- A trim trail and small climbing wall has been installed in the KS2 playground to provide pupils with more activities at break / lunch times
- The quiet area has been refurbished to provide children with a safe calm place to play away from the more active games on the main playground.
- To ensure our pupils are safe at all times new carpark gates have been installed and existing gates have been fitted with additional catches
- Additional seating / toys / activities have been purchased for pupils in the KS1 playground to enable more creative / fun playtimes.

Partnerships and Support

Through out the year we have continued to work with a number of schools, increasingly in a supportive role as developing opportunities for learning for members of our local community.

Executive Headship: During 2014-15 I was asked to take on responsibility (as Executive Headteacher) for a second local school, to support the existing leadership team; this is continuing in 2015-16.

Triad: This is a group of statistically similar schools with whom we have developed good links.

- Headteacher's Strategic Group. This group meets each half term. Through this group we have developed an action plan and agreed that our schools will work together to provide support and assistance for each others schools.
- Maths Leaders Group. This group meets each half term to look at features of maths teaching, issues common to all Triad schools and to share areas of good practice. Jo Hollands represents us at these meetings
- SENCO Group. This group is proving to be an effective support and information sharing exchange for the Triad's SENCOs. Nikki Pullinger and now Jen Robins represents our school at these meetings.
- F2 Group. F2 staff meet each term to consider developments in early years teaching and to share areas of good practice. Lesia Stuzca attends these meetings on the school's behalf.
- We, once again, ran a cross Triad moderation programme of Y2 and Y6 writing to ensure that our levels are secure. Schools that were inspected or moderated by the local authority stated that the moderation programme was judged favourably.
- In 2015-16 we will be developing new groups such as PE Leaders and Modern Foreign Languages.

Training Opportunities: This year we have been able to support in the training and development of both teachers and teaching assistants

- All staff were given the opportunity to visit other schools to develop their practice. Staff visited number of schools to look at EYFS practice, outdoor provision, EAL provision and Literacy teaching.
- All staff had access to CPD opportunities and attended courses to support their practice in a wide range of classroom / school areas.
- Several teaching students, on Hallam University Ba courses, visited our school to gain primary school experience. Jo Hollands (AHT KS2) leads in this area

Section 5

Staff / Curriculum

This year has seen a number of developments in terms of both staff and our curriculum.

Staffing:

- Jo Hollands (AHT responsible for KS2) and Helen Hitchens (AHT responsible for EYFS / KS) appointed at the start of the year had a positive impact on the school; increasing its leadership capacity taking on many of the day to day areas of responsibility across the school.
- Jen Robins (AHT / SENCO) who took over this role at the end of 2013-14 is now established as SENCO
- Additional Lunch Time Supervisors (LSAs) have been taken on to provide greater supervision of pupils at lunchtime.
- Additional Teaching Assistants (TAs) have been employed so that every class now has a dedicated member of support staff.
- The school's SEN / inclusion team has been expanded by the employment of an additional member of staff (L Tankard)

- We have employed a sports apprentice, Tom Goddard, for 2015-16 to enable us to further enhance and develop our PE provision across the school.
- The school is now employing an education welfare officer to oversee attendance matters and to liaise with families where children have poor attendance.
- Two teachers, Ms Rafiq and Mr Cotton, were awarded Teaching and Learning Responsibility (TLRs) points in 2014-15. These staff now add to the schools leadership capacity and hold responsibility for assessment in Y6 and the development of PE respectively.

Curriculum:

- Our new curriculum, developed by staff, was taught across the school for the first time in 2014-15. The curriculum is broad and balanced and provides our pupils with an appropriate range of experiences and skills.
- Y2 and Y6 completed their final year following the old national curriculum. Outcomes in these key year groups were very good – see “Attainment”.
- In all year groups apart from Y2 and Y6 staff used the new STAT Sheffield assessment system for the first time. Families were provided with information on this new system at the start of the year. The system is still evolving and staff have ongoing training / meetings to ensure the system is applied consistently and fairly across the school.
- Assessment of writing in Y6 is based on teacher’s judgement of pupil ability. For the fourth year, since this new system was introduced, our assessment practice in Y6 together with moderation across the Triad has meant that our levels are secure
- Simon Cotton organised and led a number of sporting initiatives throughout the year. Pupils from our school took part in football, sports hall athletics, cooperative games and even golfing competitions in 2014-15. We are the current city champions for “Tri Golf”! We hope to continue to expand our range of sporting and health and fitness activities in the coming year.
- F2, Y2 and Y4 enjoyed a visit from the Fire Brigade as part of our wider curriculum looking at how we keep safe.
- Y6 pupils visited “Crucial Crew”. This programme helps raise children’s awareness to a wide range of issues as they get ready to leave primary school. Areas studied include: fire safety, road safety, the dangers of drugs and how to keep safe on line.

- Parents and carers have continued to be invited into school to enable them to better support their children's learning. Parents of children who have speech and language issues were invited into school for an informal chat and support session led by staff from learning support. F2 ran a series of drop-ins. Each week they have looked at a different aspect the curriculum and how learning can be supported at home. Helen Hitchens led a number of briefings to explain different aspects of the KS1 curriculum including the Phonics Screening Check and SATS. Y6 parents were also invited into school for briefings on KS2 SATs and how families can support their children at this stressful time. And transition to secondary schools.
- Additional computers, tablets, I Pads and laptops have been purchased to ensure that pupils can access the curriculum in a range of formats tailored to their needs.
- In July 2014 we received a letter from the local authority praising the school for its continued high standards at the end of KS2. In the letter it stated

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Chris Holder August 2014