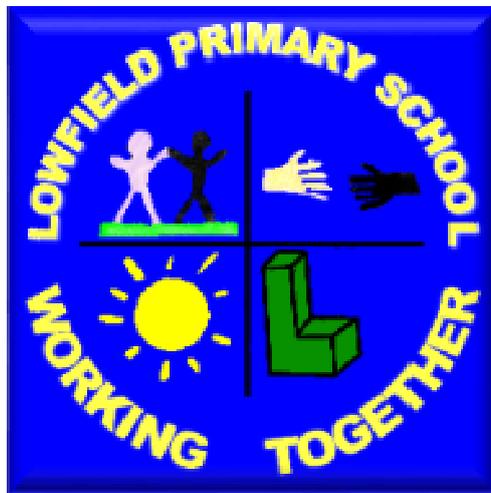


Year Review 2015-16

A summary of some of the key achievements, developments and challenges from 2015-16

Christopher Holder – Headteacher.



Progress and Attainment

End of Key Stage 2 (Attainment)

Despite 2016 being the first year of the new assessment system and the uncertainty regarding what the national standard would be our Year 6 SATs results at the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2) were, once again, very good.

Subject	Lowfield %	Sheffield %	National %
Reading	63	61	66
Writing	73	73	74
Maths	83	68	70
SPAG	93	70	72
Combined (R, W, M)	48	52	53

Lowfield is above national for:

- Maths
- Spag

Lowfield is 1 point below national for writing and 3 points below national for reading

Lowfield is above Sheffield for:

- Reading
- Maths
- Spag

Lowfield is equal to Sheffield for writing

Lowfield is below national by 5 points and Sheffield by 4 points for combined.

End of Key Stage 2 (Progress)

In 2016 new progress measures were introduced. These aim to capture the progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 1 to the end of primary school. They are a type of *value added* measure, which means that pupils' results are compared to the actual achievements of other pupils nationally with similar prior attainment.

In 2016 the school was above the national floor standard for progress.

School:	R: 2.8	National:	R: -5
	W: 2.4		W: -7
	M: 4.3		M: -5

Maths outcome puts us in the *top 5% of schools nationally*

Reading / Writing outcomes put us in the *top 25% of schools nationally*

End of Key Stage 1 (Year 2)

Again at the end of Key Stage 1 2016 saw pupils assessed on the new National Curriculum using the new measures. Despite very low starting points and children in Year 2 achieved the following outcomes.

Subject	Lowfield	Sheffield	National
Reading	62.9%	71.4%	74.0%
Writing	48.1%	64.6%	66.0%
Maths	57.4%	71.3%	73.0%

Though the outcomes are lower than in 2015 due to changes in curriculum / assessment the two data sets are not directly comparable. In 2016-17 we will be working hard to narrow the gaps to national outcomes and supporting our pupils in Y3 to ensure that gaps in their learning are rapidly closed.

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.

In 2016 our outcomes at the end of F2 were the best the school has achieved and were above national for the first time.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
School	21.7%	51%	62.5%	70.9%
Sheffield	51.8%	59.6%	65.1%	68.5%
National	52%	60%	66%	69.0%

The school outcome shows an **8.4% improvement** on the previous year and includes pupils who joined the school throughout the year often with very complex needs. The school’s rate of improvement is greater than both Sheffield and national.

Phonics Screening

In Y1 all pupils are tested to check their phonics ability – this is an indicator of their ability to decode words and read texts. In 2016 our results were **75.4%**. This is a considerable improvement on our 2013 which were only 40.5%

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 **90.7%**, compared to 66% nationally

Progress across the School

2015 saw the removal of levels of attainment in all year groups. In all year groups we are now tracking pupils using the STAT Sheffield Materials; however progress has been accelerated, broadly across the school since 2009-10.

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, supported by Nick Cox from the Cathedral

Book Fairs: Throughout the year Helen Hitchens (AHT) organised a number of book fairs at the school to promote reading. These were well supported by our families and many books were bought for children to enjoy at home. In all we sold £458.20 of books. This raised £183.00 for the school. Our pupils were able to show us which books they were interested in reading so we spent this money on interesting guided reading books for the children based on what they had asked for

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: Following an assembly, where we all learnt about schools in Africa we held a non uniform day. Money raised during the day was given to a charity that supports education in Burkina Faso, one of the poorest countries in the world. As a consequence of our fundraising enough money was collected to purchase a computer for a school in Burkina Faso to enable the pupils to connect to the wider world.

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 all very well attended.

Gateway Project: The Gateway Protection Programme is the UK's contribution to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) global resettlement programme. The school continues to admit many children each year who are refugees from all over the world. These children are a great addition to our school community and are supported through the Gateway Project.

Sport Day(s): Simon Cotton (teacher in Y3 / PE Coordinator) organised and led 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 pupils from Hartington Primary School in Derbyshire visited Lowfield. This was the return visit following our trip to Hartington last year. The visit was again a great success. Our school council showed their guests around our school and the local area visiting both Heeley City Farm and the Local Mosque.

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.

Street Party: To celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee the school held a traditional street party. The event was led by Jo Hollands (Assistant Headteacher KS2) and was linked to work in history and on British Values. The event saw the whole school sit down to a delicious meal one sunny afternoon and enjoy a variety of traditional British games and songs. The event was attended by a wide range of guests from the local community including local churches, mosques and retirement homes.

Sports Relief / Olympics: To mark these events Simon Cotton organised an opportunity for our pupils to try a range of new sports. The day included opening and closing ceremonies and speeches from invited guests and was enjoyed by all our pupils.

Summer Fair: To mark the end of the school year the newly re constituted Parent / Governor Group, led by Louise O’Malley (F2 Teacher) organised a Summer Fair. The after school event saw children, parents, teachers and friends enjoying a range of games, stalls and activities.

Lend With Care: The School Council organised a charity day which raised over £160. That money was then invested, through the charity Lend With Care, in four different people across the world, as interest free loans, to help them grow their business and to lift themselves out of poverty. As our initial loans have been repaid the money has been re invested in new business ventures – see our website for further details.

RSPCA: Representative Phillip and guest dog Murphy visited the KS2 assembly last May to say a big ‘thank you’ to Lowfield for our donations towards a new boiler at the animal rescue centre. We learned more about the work of the RSPCA and they loved meeting us too.

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.

Developments to the School Site

Over the course of the year we have continued to make improvements to our school buildings and outdoor spaces.

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

- Our Foundation Stage classrooms have had all their flooring replaced. This includes new areas of carpet and specialist surfaces for wet / messy activities.
- Additional display boards have been installed in several teaching and communal spaces to enable pupils work to be better acknowledged and celebrated.
- Communal / cloakroom spaces in F2 / KS1 have been painted and decorated to address areas of damaged plaster due to water ingress and to improve the environment.
- The hall has been repainted, a new door installed to one of the storage areas and the floor has been cleaned / polished
- Staff / visitor toilets have been replaced and the whole area repainted
- The office area has been repainted creating a good first impression of our school.
- The KS2 building has had air conditioning installed. Following extensive research this proved to be the best value option to improve this part of the school. Together with new insulation the building now provides a comfortable working environment for pupils and staff. In the past this building could reach temperatures in excess of thirty Celsius in the summer.
- The school office has been reconfigured with copiers being moved out to create a more streamlined / business-like space in order for staff to be better able to address their work and meet the needs of any parents / carers making enquiries.

Outside Space: There have been further improvements to our outdoor environments this year.

- Helen Hitchens (AHT for EYFS / KS1) has, once again, been in school over the summer to further develop our F2 outdoor provision.
- A new giant sandpit has been built / installed in our F2 outdoor teaching space
- A small climbing wall has been installed in the KS1 playground for our younger pupils.
- An outdoor classroom is being installed in our KS1 playground to create a new teaching space.
- The garden areas have been tidied / weeded during the summer and new metal benches have been installed.
- Artificial turf has been laid in the KS2 garden to make this area accessible all year round. This new space has proved very popular with our pupils.
- The KS2 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.
- Under the direction of Jo Hollands (AHT for KS2 and Jayne Kilby (Learning Mentor) we have added to our facilities in the KS2 playground. These additions include:
 - o New games / toys to encourage imaginative play.
 - o Large cushions to enable pupils to sit comfortably in our quiet area.
 - o A climbing wall
 - o Reconfigured benches for sitting
 - o An outdoor storage shed to enable safe stowage of equipment for play / dinnertimes.

Partnerships and Support

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

Executive Headship: During 2014-15 and 2015-16 I was asked to take on responsibility (as Executive Headteacher) for a second local school, to support the existing leadership team. In 2015-16 I was also asked to support at a further local school for the summer term.

Locality: Our Locality (a division of schools within Sheffield) comprises over 30 schools on the western side of the city. From September I will be the Locality Lead helping to coordinate this group and helping to ensure the best outcomes for the pupils in this large and diverse area

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. 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. Helen Hitchens 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.

Sheaf Cooperative Trust: This is a more formal arrangement than the Triad between Sharrow, Broomhill and Netherthorpe schools. We have worked with this group this year and may join the trust along with Springfield Primary in 2016-17. Again the purpose of the group is to work in partnership to enable all our schools to operate more efficiently and to ensure the very best outcomes for our pupils.

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

- We work with the Escafeld Teaching School Alliance to develop the next generation of teachers. Bekki Lee, trained through the School Direct Programme, was based at our school during 2015-16. We were very pleased that she passed her course with the best possible grade and has taken up a post at Hallam Primary.
- All staff were, again, 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. Training is based on a combination of requests from staff and needs identified through analysis of school data.
- Several teaching students, on a variety of Hallam University teaching courses, visited our school to gain primary school experience. Jo Hollands (AHT KS2) leads in this area.
- Jo Hollands and Kalthum Ahmed delivered training to Ba students, from Hallam University, on teaching / meeting the needs of EAL pupils.
- Christina Fashanu has been working in school during the year, in F2, as part of her PHD research into how pupils adapt when working in a second language. Christina used to work at the school (as Miss Tatham) and has returned to undertake her research into language acquisition. See will continue to monitor the children she has been working with throughout Y1 in 2016-17

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) continue to have a very 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) continues to ensure that the need of our SEN children are well met and are effectively supported. Increasingly this involves wider liaison with outside agencies.
- Further additional Lunch Time Supervisors (LSAs) have been taken on to provide greater supervision of pupils at lunchtime as our school population continues to grow.
- The school's SEN / inclusion team has been expanded by the employment of additional staff (Casey Wild)
- We have employed a second sports apprentice, Debbie Wray, for 2016-17 to enable us to further enhance and develop our PE provision across the school. Tom Goddard – apprentice in 2015-16 has been retained for a further year as a teaching assistant and to help to train this year's apprentice.
- To increase and further enhance our teaching capacity we have employed a new part time senior teacher, Rachel Holmes Ward. Mrs Holmes Ward is providing PPA cover across upper KS2 and additional teaching capacity in Y6 in particular. In addition she is also leading on the teaching of phonics in KS2.
- Michelle Montgomery has been recruited as an HLTA to work alongside Jo Hollands so that the class is better supported to reduce the impact of an AHT being out of class.

- Deborah Harrison (formerly a part time TA in Y4) will join the SEN team in 2016-17 to work across the school.
- Joanne Markham (Admin Officer) has been recruited to provide additional capacity in the school office. Joanne will work for 3 days per week from September.

Curriculum:

- Our new curriculum, developed by staff and taught across the school for the first time in 2014-15, has continued to be developed. The curriculum is broad and balanced and provides our pupils with an appropriate range of experiences and skills.
- Y2 and Y6 completed their first year following the new national curriculum. Outcomes in these key year groups were very good – see “Attainment”.
- During the summer term staff worked together to produce a range of exemplification materials in writing. The concept behind this initiative was that by having an agreed set of writing at each key learning step staff would be better able to make accurate assessment of pupils writing. These files are now in all classrooms
- In *all year groups* staff used the new STAT Sheffield assessment system for the first time. Families were again provided with information on this new system through meetings and leaflets. The system continues to develop and staff have ongoing training / meetings to ensure the system is applied consistently and fairly across the school.
- We have been asking the children what books they would like to be reading in school in order to make sure that all of our children are developing a love of reading and improving their reading attainment. As a result we have ordered guided reading sets of books like Tom Gates, Diary of a Wimpy kid, Goosebumps, Marvel superheroes, Lego Star Wars to name a few.
- Assessment of writing in Y6 is based on teacher’s judgement of pupil ability. For the fifth 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 2015-16. We are, for the second consecutive year, the city champions for “Tri Golf”! We plan to further 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.
- In April poet David Hammer came into school to work with all year groups. It was a very exciting day starting with a hilarious assembly where David read his poems and the children joined in. David then worked with each year group to read poems and help create a poem together. The day inspired some great writing from our pupils
- Year 1 pupils took part in the RHS Space Seeds experiment. This was a national experiment which Lowfield was very excited to be a part of and to see what would happen to the space seeds.
- The whole school took part in a Science day where we made rockets which were launched using different plastic bottles. Pupils had to predict and then measure how far they launched into the air
- 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 has led a number of briefings to explain different aspects of the KS1 curriculum including the Phonics Screening Check and SATS. Y6 families have also been invited into school for briefings on transition to secondary school, KS2 SATs and how families can support their children at this stressful time.
- Further 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.
- Andrew McCready (Y2 teacher / Educational Visits Coordinator) developed a programme of visits for our pupils so that, during their time with us all our pupils will experience a wide range of educational visits; each year group will include one visit with a real “wow” factor.

- In the Spring term we were very pleased to receive a national award for being in the *top 10% of schools nationally for pupil progress in 2015*
- Later in the term the school's achievement was celebrated in the local press and we were very pleased to receive a letter from our local Member of Parliament praising the schools good work



Christopher Holder September 2016