

Staff involved Assistant Headteacher and Subject Leader Leanne Quarry-Ellis and English Link Governor Lyn Eaton

Key discussion points

- The results of the Year 1 Phonics Screening Tests were not yet available but will hopefully be positive. LA School Improvement monitoring staff (the phonics police!) have visited the school to undertake their checks and found everything in order.
- The focus on Writing which has been a high priority this year and should result in improved data will continue next year so that further improvements can be made.
- Gareth Davies a former teacher and the founder of Literacy Counts has visited the school to contribute to their CPD by sharing recent developments with the English team. Sentence accuracy and coherence resulting in a well-structured sentence will continue to be an area of focus. The AHT/SL continues to be impressed with the online access to Literacy Counts which can effectively reduce a teacher's workload.
- The AHT/SL has continued with moderator duties. Cluster moderation in respect of Year 2 has been undertaken with other local schools including St George's, New Brighton, Castleway and Kingsway.
- There has been no decision yet on whether to continue with KS1 SATs next year when they cease to be a statutory requirement; some staff however support carrying on with the process which can be useful to both staff and children. KS1 moderation will be disbanded but KS2 will continue.
- Daniel Taylor the successful West End theatre actor has visited the school to lead a Drama Workshop.
- KS2 results will be available as usual in July. Staff are understandably cautious about the results. There was criticism from some quarters this year about the Reading paper, thought by some to be too difficult: some children found it difficult to navigate with 38 questions to be answered in an hour; there were some longish questions near the end that apparently resulted in some pupils failing to complete the paper; some questions were open to interpretation with different opinions about the correct answer; some thought that the 3 topics of camping, bats and wolves may be unfamiliar to some children.
- Successful strategies determined for this year will be carried on next year and include: using short incidental writes i.e. more opportunities to write; shortening activities to allow more time for writing and the important editing process (including leaving an empty line for editing); monitoring including 'book looks' to identify where improvements are needed such as consistency, using tenses and general coherence. Additionally there will be more opportunities provided for children to talk about their reading.
- The AHT/ SL is confident about morale at this point in the year and also about staffing for the next academic year.
- Enrichment activities will continue next year with the focus on improving Maths and English particularly Writing. A Debating Club is being added- examples of subject to be debated include the money earned by professional footballers, the future of SATs and the place of digital technology in education.
- Workshops for the parents/carers of Foundation stage children will again be offered in respect of phonics in the Autumn term.
- **Next visit** during term 1 of the new academic year.