

Staff involved Assistant Headteacher and Subject Leader Leanne Quarry-Ellis and English Link Governor Lyn Eaton were joined by Deputy Headteacher Jane Fagan.

Key discussion points

- As data was unavailable at the last meeting in June, Pupil End of Year Attainment Data 2023 was considered in some detail during this visit.
- Year 1 Phonics Screening Test results showed further improvement at 87% (from last year's 83%), 8% higher than both the 2023 national and LA averages at 79%. The Year 2 results at 95.6% were an improvement on both last year's 90.9% and the national average in 2023 of 89%.
- The focus on Writing which was a high priority last year paid off with significantly improved data for KS1 of 69% achieving the expected standard (with 51% in 2022) and exceeding both the 2023 national average of 60% and 57% LA average.
- Reading for KS1 at 77% achieving the expected standard (with 75% in 2022) also exceeded both 2023 national at 68% and LA at 66% averages.
- KS2/Year 6 2023 data in respect of Reading at 77% achieving the expected standard was better than both national at 73% and LA at 71% averages, although it was 82% in 2022. Governors may remember that there was some criticism about the 2023 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.
- KS2 Writing similarly at 73% achieving the expected standard was better than both the national at 71% and LA at 68% averages, although it was 78% in 2022.
- Given the general sustaining of standards, the favourable comparison of Reading and Writing outcomes to national and LA averages and in particular the KS1 outcomes which exceeded 2022, last year's successful approaches/strategies will continue. Opportunities for children to talk about their reading will be maximised. Providing appropriate training for ECTs and coaching for all staff will continue. Children's immersion and enjoyment in reading and writing from an early age will be facilitated. The different interests of boys and girls and underrepresented groups will continue to be considered when selecting books/resources and making curriculum content choices to ensure inclusion and interest for all.
- Gaps between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged are generally reducing but will remain an important focus.
- The AHT/SL will continue with moderator duties while moderation across the school will ensure best practice continues to be identified and shared.
- The AHT/ SL is confident about both staffing and morale at this point in the year.
- Enrichment activities will continue this year with the focus on improving Maths and English particularly Writing. A Debating Club is starting and an enrichment club will focus on SPAG. The structure and content of sessions is regularly monitored to ensure satisfactory representation from those children who will benefit most from attendance.
- Engagement with parents/carers will continue this year. Encouragingly there was huge uptake for a recent phonics session. Stay and Play sessions and the Mystery Reader are proving popular (following a perceived disconnect during and just after the COVID pandemic) with evidence of more dads attending.
- **Next visit** during term 2 in the New Year.