

**Staff involved** English Subject Leader Ruth Day and Link Governor Lyn Eaton.

### Key discussion points

- Year 1 phonics screening test outcomes were 81% compared to 87% last year, however they exceeded the national average of 80.3% this year. The LA average was unavailable at the time of this visit. It was decided earlier in the year to continue with KS1 SATs although they are no longer a statutory requirement. Outcomes were KS1 Reading 79% an increase from 77% last year, Writing 69% the same as last year and Mathematics 79% an increase from 77% last year.
- KS2 outcomes were a cause for celebration with some significant improvements. For Reading 85% met the expected standard (compared to 77% last year) and above both the LA average of 71% and the national average of 74%. For GPS 80% met the expected standard (compared to 66% last year) and above both the LA average of 70% and national average of 72%. For Writing 70% met the expected standard (compared to 73% last year) and above the LA average of 66.5% but below the national average of 72%. For Maths 84% met the expected standard (compared to 73% last year) and above both the LA average of 66% and the national average of 73%. The numbers of children who achieved the Higher Standard increased for all subjects except Writing. In Reading 40% achieved the Higher Standard with LA average 25%, in GPS 36% with LA average 18%, in Maths 30% with LA average 29% and Writing 5.4% with LA average 9%. In respect Reading (and Maths) Pupil Premium children outperformed non-PP children
- Given that Writing needs to improve further at both Key Stages the priority given to it last year will continue into this year.
- Staff have developed a deeper understanding of the issues that can affect children's performance, are better able to identify gaps to be addressed and their judgements have become more confident and refined. The daily focus on SPAG will continue for all children with refinements for those with SEND such as the 'watch list' to ensure timely and appropriate support/interventions when books are checked.
- The SL provides an English surgery to support staff with ECTs encouraged to attend.
- The system of ranking children successfully introduced last year will continue as it is now possible to more accurately focus on which children need support/interventions. The improved outcomes support this strategy, while the focus on children effectively editing their own work will continue.
- Reading remains a school strength.
- The English Overall Subject Priority will be to introduce metacognition and self-regulation so that children are aware of their strengths, weaknesses and the strategies they need to learn. Action Plans for Reading and Writing 2024-5 include: curriculum audits to identify key knowledge and skills that deepen understanding; monitoring assessment information to identify key gaps and actions needed; reducing achievement gaps and particularly with the most vulnerable children; for all children to be self-regulated learners of whom the staff have high expectations and with all forms of success celebrated; the introduction of Short Burst Writes across both key stages,
- Opportunities for children to talk about their Reading and practise their Writing will continue as will children's immersion and enjoyment in Reading and Writing. The different interests of boys and girls and underrepresented groups will continue to be considered when selecting books/resources. The SL intends to submit a funding proposal to update the balcony library.
- The SL is confident about both staffing and morale at this point in the year despite some initial nervousness about changes and particularly the introduction of mixed ability groups. The SLT and middle leaders are all aware of the importance of maintaining the staff's well-being through talking with and listening to staff in respect of suggested adjustments and exercising flexibility where appropriate (eg completing PPA at home).
- Parents/carers have been and will continue to be actively encouraged to foster a love of, and passion for reading, in their children. Workshops and particularly in respect of Early Years children will continue.
- Enrichment activities and particularly those with a focus on improving SPAG will continue. The structure and content of sessions is regularly monitored to ensure satisfactory representation from those children who need the most support.
- Books will continue to be checked for good presentation which is a 'non-negotiable' while additional sentence accuracy continues to be embedded.
- **Next visit** during term 2 January/February 2025