

Reading Learning Walk 7 Mar 2018

A group of governors visited school to look at Reading.

What did we do?

We met Mrs Milligan, Literacy Co-ordinator. We visited some classes and then talked to Mrs Milligan about aspects of reading and the new Post-Ofsted Action Plan.

Reception: we watched a small group of higher ability children who were doing guided reading with Mrs Henzell. The children were using books from the 'Read, Write, Inc' phonics programme and were being led through the reading activities by the teacher in order to extend their phonics skills. They coped well with the tasks they had to do.

Year 3: this class was also split into different groups doing different activities: Lexia on iPads; guided reading with Ms Khanom; guided reading with Miss Hodgson; two groups were drawing story maps (link with Talk for Writing skills)

Year 5: one group was in the IT room with Mr Ramsey. They were working on 'The Diamond of Drury Lane' exploring some of the detail from the book through drama to help their understanding of the text. In the year 5 classroom, there were groups doing different activities : comprehension: Lexia on iPads: independent reading; guided reading with their teacher, Ms Limer.

Year 6: this class was in the hall, answering a SATS reading paper under test conditions as practice for the actual test.

What did we learn?

We learned that guided reading is best delivered in small groups according to ability. Lexia and accelerated reading are helpful programs for children to do on their own to boost reading skills. We learned that there has been some support from the local authority from Lesley Cook, EYFS and KS1 Literacy Advisor and also from Gateshead LA training for schools. There has been work done in school around reading records to make the processes more consistent across school. There is training arranged for teaching assistants on using a generic reading file and there will be further training for subject co-ordinators. We discussed whether it would be useful for the school to look for volunteers to help with listening to children read.

Any questions?

We asked about reading records being signed as this had been discussed at our recent GB meeting. They are signed but Mrs Milligan reported that this was being reviewed so that comments made would be more helpful to parents and staff and would cover phonics, fluency and comprehension.

Positive comments

All the children we saw were working well and were focussed on what they were doing. In the classes with group work, all the groups were self-regulating and motivated to work well, not needing any reminders from the teachers about keeping on task. There was a range of different activities to suit different abilities, with appropriate support and challenge and children were well-supported by additional adults in Years 3 and 5. They were all very engaged with their reading and keen to tell us about it without much invitation. They worked very well in groups together and behaviour was excellent. They were clearly enjoying what they were doing.

Future visits

It would be useful at a later date to see the revised reading records and to find out about the impact of the training on reading files.

SIP links

2017/18 SIP To improve Reading and Writing for boys in year 3

Post-Ofsted plan

LM1 To secure consistently good teaching and learning across key stages 1 and 2, particularly in Reading and Writing

T2 To use assessment information effectively to match learning tasks and activities accurately to pupils' needs and interests, especially in Reading and Writing

T4 To read with all pupils in Key Stage 1 more frequently