

Link Governor visit — Hugh Stolliday 19/9/2017**Focus: EYFS****Summary**

This was a catch-up visit with Mrs.Henzell in my role as EYFS link governor.

What I have learned

EYFS have introduced a new baseline assessment system for children entering Reception. This enables straightforward recording of progress – what numbers does the child recognise, do they understand concepts like longer/shorter, can the child write his or her name etc. Whilst the implementation of the baseline has been laborious, it will make it much simpler to track progress as the child develops through the year.

In Nursery, the staggered entry system is still disruptive but hard to see how to solve the problem.

Numbers on roll are low, especially in the latter half of the week. There still seems to be a range of toilet and feeding issues.

This year's reception are thought to be a stronger cohort, as shown by their ability to tidy up, sit on their carpet seats, and earlier introduction of phonics teaching. However, the group does have a number of children with speech and language issues.

Very low take-up of the 30 hour offer. May be a result of few children where both parents are in work?

SH and KM have introduced a new learning journey tool – called Tapestry, it allows simpler recording of children meeting objectives. It also allows TAs to enter information (with KM/SH oversight). Eventually, it will allow parents to add information too. It cost about £140 for a year and SH considers it to be good value!

Positive comments

Miss Moore is now full time in nursery and considered a tremendous asset.

Miss Macanespie and Miss Mackell have been very helpful in implementing the new baseline.

GLD shows an improving trend. Whilst there were some difficulties with last year's reception cohort – particularly boys, and a relatively high % of children with SEN and emotional and social difficulties – results showed improvement. SH identified talk for writing as a particular reason for improvement.

SH had introduced a new system of pen portraits to help the transition between EYFS groups (Nursery to Reception, Reception to Yr1) which had improved the understanding of each pupil's needs as they passed between year groups.

Aspects I would like clarified, plans for future visits

SH and KM are still keen to introduce an EYFS unit and I think this might be considered by the governors as part of looking at the buildings and infrastructure.

SH and KM would like to make some changes to the tarmacked area outside reception and I have agreed to help them look for funding opportunities.

GB plan link: governor monitoring

Hugh Stolliday, EYFS link governor