

DUNDRY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

110 Dundry Lane

Dundry

Bristol

BS41 8JE

Telephone: 0117 964 7181

Fax: 0117 946 5651

Email: dundry.pri@n-somerset.gov.uk

The small school making a
BIG difference!



Headteacher: Miss Rhiannon Price

22nd June 2010

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a busy year in Dundry School and much progress has been made since our Ofsted Inspection in October. The inspection team found many positives about our school, including the provision we make for pupils' personal development and the care we give them. They also noted how polite our children are, something of which we are all proud.

The work of Miss Butler and the Class 1 team was also highlighted, with their dedication to providing exciting learning opportunities being graded outstanding, the highest level which Ofsted can award.

Alongside these strengths, the Inspection team highlighted 4 key actions to help the school to improve and we have been working hard on them. One target was to ensure that all teaching was satisfactory with 75% being good or better. In the last round of formal observations, this target was not only reached, but exceeded. **ALL** teaching was at least satisfactory with 80% being good – some with elements of outstanding. Formal and informal observations continue to ensure that we maintain and improve in this area.

In order to ensure that this level of teaching and learning progress continues, we have linked this to the second Ofsted action point which is to develop the role of the subject leader. Each member of staff has responsibility for different subject areas and as such, monitors teaching and learning in these subjects across the school. This involves looking at pupil's books to ensure they are making progress relative to their age and ability, but also talking to pupils about their learning. This has enabled all subject leaders to identify the strengths within their subject area, but also what areas need to be worked on in order to improve learning opportunities and standards for pupils. This is then fed back to both staff and Governors so that the good practice seen can be shared and we can work together as a team to move the school forward.

The leadership of literacy and numeracy both utilise analysis of data to identify strengths and areas for improvement. This was also a recommendation of Ofsted. Leaders in these subjects use information from tests and termly assessments to identify what our children know and what they need to do next in order to make specific progress. This forms the literacy and numeracy targets you see in their books and are also sent home to you.

Our inspection report recommended we visit other schools to share our ideas with colleagues as well as bring back examples of good practice. Mr Wiggins and Mrs Warren visited Golden Valley School in Nailsea to learn about writing and numeracy; Mr Wiggins is also due to visit Wraxall School and their Deputy Head will visit us. Mrs Wilson visited a teacher at St Mary's in Portbury, who in turn visited us. Miss Butler visited Banwell to find out more about the use of feedback in EYFS. Miss Colby has used her time to work with our sports team co-ordinator to develop sporting provision in school. Finally, I have been on two learning walks to Fynamore Primary school in Wiltshire and Bailey's Court in South Gloucester to find out more about writing and learning environments.

All of these learning visits have fed into our curriculum target from Ofsted, which is to improve the standard of pupil's writing in school. In order to do this, we have also received support from the local authority, with advisors coming into school to keep us updated on the latest initiatives to support writing. Staff utilise these strategies when planning writing opportunities. We have also used one of our Inset days to plan how to use the whole curriculum to provide children with exciting and meaningful opportunities to write.

Alongside this, a new spelling scheme has been purchased to develop pupils' spelling. We realise the important part parents and carers play in supporting their children's learning at home, so we have run a number of spelling/phonics workshops for parents. This ensures that there is greater clarity of what we do in school and supports your understanding of how we can work together.

As part of their visit to Golden Valley, Mr Wiggins and Mrs Warren learnt about a strategy to support pupils' learning of punctuation and grammar called VCOP. This stands for Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation. Staff have begun using this in class and are developing it alongside the school's marking scheme to ensure pupils know exactly what their next steps for learning are.

Our final target from Ofsted involved the Governing Body. The members of the governing body are made up of a variety of people from the school and local community who volunteer to assist in the leadership and development of the school. They are very supportive and have worked hard to move the school forward. They have linked with staff to ensure regular feedback about what is happening in school and how we are moving forward. They have benefited from workshops and courses led by Governor Services to develop their role of 'critical friend' and hold the school accountable for its progress. Governors are very pleased with progress the school has made over the year.

The staff and governors of the school have worked very hard over the last year to reach the targets set us by Ofsted. Over the last fortnight the work of Mrs Warren and Miss Butler has been moderated by the local authority, as is usual for all schools. Moderation is when an external adviser visits the school to quality check that our assessment of pupil progress is consistent with other schools across North Somerset. It was a great privilege to have their excellent work highlighted and praised.

We also appreciate the input you as parents have in helping us to develop the school. Through your support and suggestions via our questionnaires, we have been able to respond to what you feel would improve the school, for example clubs, parent workshops, coffee mornings etc. Through working together, we really can keep our children at the heart of everything we do at Dundry. The staff and I would like to invite you for an informal chat and a coffee after school on Thursday so that we can continue to strengthen the partnership we have. We will be in Class 2 between 3:15 and 4:15pm and would love to see you. A member of staff will be on the playground to supervise the children, or in the Hall if it is raining. Do please come along as together we really can make Dundry C of E Primary the 'small school making a big difference'.

The final thing I would like to ask you is whether you would mind spending 5-10 minutes completing the positive feedback form that is attached to this letter. If you feel that something really special has taken place at some stage this year for your child, or you wish to praise the work of the school in any way, this is your opportunity to do so! Positive feedback forms will be available from now on in the office for parents/carers, visitors, members of the community etc. to complete if they feel that something they have seen or been part of needs to be celebrated. We will put completed forms on display for all of our visitors to see.

I look forward to seeing you at Thursday's coffee afternoon if you are able to join us.

Yours sincerely

Rhiannon Price
Headteacher

