

Newsletter

January 2020



Message from the Head Teacher

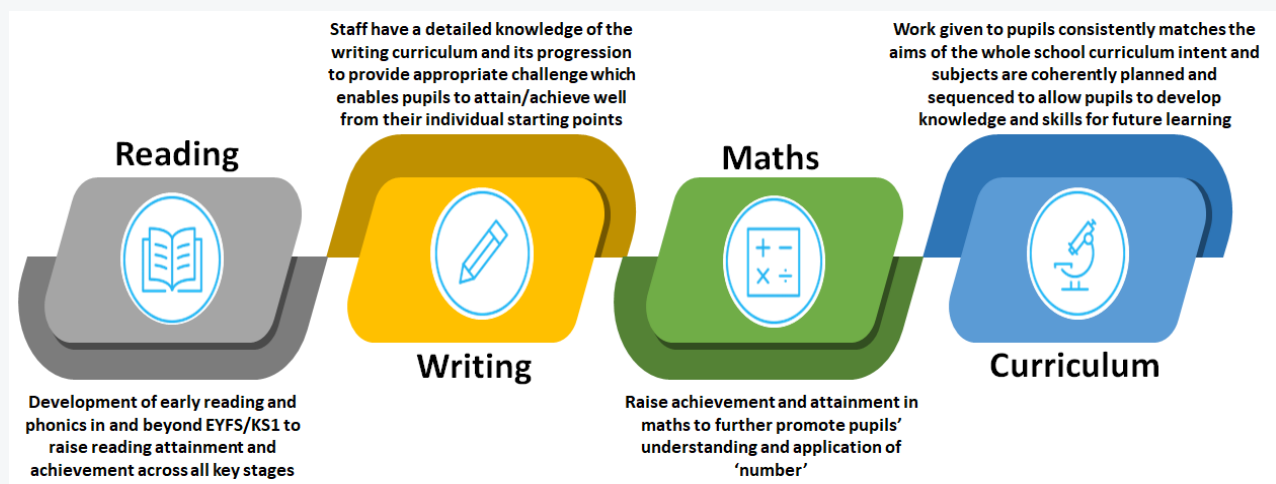
Happy new year and a very warm welcome back to school after the Christmas break. Before the break, it was lovely to see a packed hall for our KS2 carol service- a huge thank you to the staff involved and to Miss Brown for conducting the singing. Also, the support of POPS during all of our Christmas events was much appreciated. We have another busy term of activities planned and I know that the children have already hit the ground running over the last two weeks.

Thankfully, the break from school seems to have stopped the outbreak of sickness that appeared to affect the whole city. Thank you to all for respecting the 48-hour exclusion rule as this is essential to limit and contain such outbreaks and this did help us to remain open unlike other schools across the city.

Mr Horton

School Development Priorities

Following our Ofsted inspection last year, we devised a Post Ofsted Action Plan. We have spent the last year reflecting on our inspection, taking advice and making changes for the better. We have now achieved our Post Ofsted Plan and are in the position to continue to build upon our current practice. As such, from the start of this term, we are working to achieve our 2020-21 school development plan. This plan will run until the end of the next academic year and will be regularly reviewed and refined. It is expected that there will be a substantial review of the plan around September to reflect any additional areas that we need to consider following this year's data outcomes and further advice from our assigned local authority advisor. Our four main development priorities are:



Our School Development Plan is currently in the process of being approved by the Governing Body and when approved, the full version will be available on the school website along with subject specific action plans for each curriculum area. This document will allow you to see the work that is going on behind the scenes to make our school the best that it can be. As soon as the School Development Plan is available on the website, we will let you know.

School Pantomime- Pinocchio

A big thank you to POPS for funding our whole school pantomime on the first day back in January. The children were treated to a fantastic performance of Pinocchio which I know they all enjoyed, and it was a nice start to the new school term.



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Elf Hunt

We had a fantastic turn out for our first ever 'Elf Hunt' during the last week of term. Despite some wet weather earlier in the day, the event was able to go ahead, and I know that the families who took part had a lot of fun. We would like to thank Mr Westmoreland for organising and for setting up the course, the staff who stayed after school to run the event and to Mr James, for being our final, hidden elf! We would like to thank POPS for their support in sourcing the hotdogs and buns which they managed to get for free. I know that many of the families that took part would welcome another similar event and Mr Westmoreland is already busy thinking of what we can do next. Thank you for your support.

Playground Behaviour Before School

Generally, older pupils who get themselves to school are well behaved and wait sensibly for the school day to start. However, we request that children who bring themselves do not arrive at school too early. Also, if your child is normally unaccompanied and their behaviour is not as we would expect, parents will be requested to accompany their children before the school day. If this is the case, we will contact you to discuss this further. Thank you for your cooperation.

Reading- Eager Reader Initiative

As detailed in the letter from Mrs Brooks earlier this term, we have extended the use of the Eager Reader initiative into KS2. Over the last 2-years, this has been very popular in KS1 and as a result, we have seen an increase in the frequency of children reading at home. This is one of the many areas that we are developing as part of our new School Development Plan. After launching this with KS2 last week, we have already seen an increase in the volume of reading happening at home. It is hoped that this will continue to increase each week as the children try and win the 'Eager Reader' trophy awarded to the class with the most eager readers. Children can also individually earn bronze, silver and gold pin badges the more times that they are an eager reader. The children who are eager readers consistently over the year can win a special diamond award! We know that they children are excited about this initiative so please give your support at home to enable you child/ren to be an eager reader each week.

KS2 Golden Time

We are trialling a change to KS2 Golden Time. Historically, Golden time was free time that is earned over the week for good behaviour and was awarded for the last 30-minutes of the school day, on a Friday. However, after reviewing this time, we have decided to trial KS2 having an afternoon playtime instead. This has been initially popular with KS2 pupils who did enjoy their additional playtime last week. This playtime is also earned in the same way as the old golden time and if the children have been on a certain number of steps during the week, they will lose this playtime as a result. We will review this change with the school council over the next term to decide on any further changes.

This has also allowed us to change our Friday assembly time and we can now have a whole school assembly where we can award Eager Reader, Attendance and House Team Trophies.

New Screens

The new screens were successfully installed over the Christmas break and are a big improvement on our old boards and projectors. We have donated our old equipment to at least five schools across the city who are not in a position to replace their existing hardware- we are pleased that we have been able to help children across the city who have not had working boards/projectors for a period of time and hope that they help to enrich their learning.



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Eden Camp Trip

The Year Six staff have asked that the Year 6 trip to Eden Camp be celebrated on the newsletter. The staff were extremely proud of all the children and of their behaviour. As always, they were excellent ambassadors for the school and behaved impeccably. Well done, Year 6!

Upcoming Dates:

6 th February	KS1 Learn with us (PM)- Letter to follow
13 th February	POPS Valentines Disco: TBC
17 th -23 rd February	Spring Half Term- School Closed
24 th February	School Opens
24 th -26 th February	Y5 Scarborough Residential
26 th -28 th February	Y4 Scarborough Residential
28 th February	Mid-year reports to parents
4 th March	Class Photographs
10 th and 11 th March	Parents' Evening
19 th March	EYFS – Mother's Day Tea Party: 2pm to 3pm
26 th March	KS1 Learn with us (PM)- Letter to follow
2 nd April	EYFS – Easter Crafts: 1.30pm to 3pm
3 rd April	KS2 Easter Singing Celebration
6 th -19 th April	Easter Break- School Closed

