



Leighswood School
Broadmeadow, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8HZ
Tel: 01922 743621

8th January 2019

Dear Parents / carers,

I'd like to welcome everyone back to what will be the start of a fantastic new term at Leighswood. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and restful holiday and I'll look forward to hearing about your Christmas celebrations from your children.

I assured parents that as part of working together in partnership with Cadmus family of schools I would keep you informed and reflect on any changes that occur within Leighswood.

I am pleased to announce that Leighswood had a very positive review of leadership in December. The strengths identified were;

- In the short time in post, the Executive Headteacher has formed an accurate picture of the school's current position. He has identified the areas of provision that need to be improved and the actions required to bring this about.
- The Executive Headteacher has instilled a confidence in other leaders to question current practice and acknowledge where change is needed in order to improve outcomes for pupils.
- Leaders have worked hard to ensure that all teachers know who the disadvantaged pupils are in their classes. There is an expectation that teachers use this information when planning and delivering their teaching to ensure these pupils benefit and make good progress.
- SEND provision is well managed and support is matched to meet pupils' needs. The SENCo monitors pupils' progress carefully and additional strategies are used where they are needed. At the end of Key Stage 2 in 2018, all of the pupils with matched Key Stage 1 data made good progress in either reading or mathematics, and often in both.
- Provision across EYFS provides opportunities for children that enables them to develop independence and a range of skills. As a result, the proportion of children achieving a good level of development in recent years has been at or above national averages.

Quality learning from 2 to 11

Quality learning from 2 to 11



- Leaders have supported staff to raise expectations of behaviour in lessons and around school. As a result, in most classes, staff have good relationships with the pupils and deal well with any minor disruptions, which helps to create an environment where pupils feel confident and enjoy learning.
- Pupils report that they feel safe in school and that they would feel comfortable talking to an adult should they feel the need to do so. They reflect positively on school life generally but particularly following the change of leadership.

The review identified some practical next steps for the school;

- Review the current monitoring procedures to ensure more people monitor more frequently. Focus monitoring activities on those areas that need to be improved the most. Use monitoring activities to outline next steps for teachers and include a timeframe in which to see the improvements in their practice.
- Support teachers to plan lessons that meet the needs of their pupils. Utilise the expertise that exists within the school and across the federation to provide additional guidance to help teachers develop their practice in the classroom.
- Review the current approach to the presentation of data to provide a clearer overview of how well pupils are attaining now from their starting points, broken down into key groups, to make it easier for stakeholders to challenge leaders.
- Raise the thresholds for triggering attendance support for pupils in school. Begin by targeting the children in receipt of pupil premium funding.

Following a very positive consultation process for federation, governors are meeting this month to discuss and agree on the next steps for the partnership between Leighswood and Cadmus.

We are also pleased to announce that all of the schools in Cadmus have joined in partnership with St Johns CE Primary to form a teaching school alliance. This will provide a host of opportunities to develop teaching and learning at Leighswood.

I'm meeting with the PTA on Monday and planning the next fundraising activities for the school. The PTA offers really important support for our children at Leighswood and I encourage parents to contact school to be a part of this worthwhile endeavour. Recent fundraising has been focused on providing more resources for the children to utilise at lunchtime.

Quality learning from 2 to 11

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We have put in a bid for the development of the library area in KS2. This is part of a general focus on developing the library areas in Key Stages 1 and 2 and providing a wider range of books for the children to share and read at home. We will update you on the development as soon as there is further news.

We would like to pass on a huge thank you to Corrie Halford, Kevin Hubery, Imran Khan and Dean Hadley. They have moved on from our governing body following their years of office. We thank them for their service and wish them well in their future endeavours. The Governing body will be supported by a highly regarded national leader of governance who will help ensure our rapid improvement continues into 2019.

We would also like to welcome back Mrs Vann into year 5. In partnership with Mrs Pearson they will form a very strong team and have already begun preparing exciting and challenging lessons for our children.

Please keep an eye out for the curriculum letters this week which will keep you informed about the parent sharing afternoons and what the children will be studying this term.

Max Vlahakis
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