



CITY OF COVENTRY

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Thursday 18th July 2019

Dear Parents

I am writing to keep you updated on school achievements and areas for development and to keep you informed of any changes and priorities we now have as a school. Thank you for returning your Parent View questionnaires. Once again, it was a really positive picture. You have also identified for us any areas that you feel can be improved upon. I have attached a summary of the Parent View, and will review with you again in September, when we have collated all of your suggestions.

Moving Coundon Forward

Whilst our last Ofsted inspection in May 2015 was very successful and we were judged to be a Good school with Outstanding Behaviour and Safety, we are aware that there have been a lot of changes since then and we are due an inspection within the next term. We will be completing a lot of work reviewing and improving the curriculum over the next two years and have already asked the children to give us some of their ideas for how we can make it more engaging and relevant for them. We do strongly believe that 'Teaching and Learning' continues to be good and you can rest assured, knowing that your children are in the hands of capable, hardworking teaching staff who, like you, want the best for your children.

Attainment at Coundon

Children's progress and attainment is judged on whether they achieved Age Related Expectation (**AREs**). The tests continue to be much harder than in previous years. The local Authority has looked at Coundon Primary's assessment data and considers Coundon to be a Category 'A' school.

Reception

The percentage of children who achieved a Good Level of Development is 75%. This is the baseline measurement from which we now track and assess your children as they go through Coundon Primary. National figures last year were 71.5%. Therefore, your children started Coundon Primary just below National averages, but reached just above National average when they left Reception.

Year 1 Phonics

This year 78% children passed the phonics-screening test in year 1. The National score was 81%, so we appreciate that we need to improve upon this. Although the Good Level of Development when they were last assessed at the end of Reception was 73%, so they have made some progress.



Year 2: Percentage at Age Related Expectations

Subject	% at Expected and above		National 2018
	2018	2019	
Reading	69.5%	74%	75%
Writing	67%	69%	70%
Maths	72%	73%	76%

These results are an improving picture and progress is good as this cohort of children were working at 72% Good Level of Development when they were last assessed at the end of Reception.

Year 2: Percentage at Greater Depth (Significantly more able)

Subject	School 2017	School 2018	School 2019	National 2018
Reading	16.8%	20%	24%	26%
Writing	8.43%	7%	8%	16%
Maths	15.7	21%	19%	22%

We are concerned that our children did not perform as well at greater depth for Writing, and there was a significant *difference between the attainment of boys and girls*. This will be a priority focus for the school.

Year 6 : Percentage at Age Related Expectations

Subject	School 2017	School 2018	School 2019 ARE	National 2019
Reading	78%	70.5%	72%	73%
Writing	76%	79%	79%	78%
Maths	72%	66%	69%	79%
Grammar	83%	77%	74%	78%
RWM Combined	58%	55.7%	55.7%	64.8%

As you can see, our results are in line with National figures in Reading and Writing. However, despite a lot of school focus on Maths, we are below National Averages. We do appreciate that every year the children are different and there may be year groups where there are significant number of children with additional needs. This year we had one child who was never actually taught at Coundon but was on our school roll and took the tests.

Progress from Year 2 to Year 6 – The MOST important figure as it measures how well your children do throughout Key Stage 2.

Subject	School 2018	National 2019
Reading	+1.6%	+0.13
Writing	+1.2%	+0.26
Maths	+0%	+1.37

This may sound like small percentages above National, but it is very difficult to get above '0', and we are extremely proud of the children and staff as it is a real measure of the work they have put in, the quality of teaching, and the progress they have made throughout Key Stage Two in Reading and Writing. However, once again, we have concerns as to why the children did not make good progress in Maths.

To summarise, results in July and baseline tests at the start of this academic year show that:-

- This year children entered Coundon at the age of 4 just below national average this year.
- By the time they leave Reception they are in line or just above National Averages.
- Over the last three years, children are in line or above National Averages in Phonics.
- They leave Key Stage 1 working broadly in line with Age Related Expectations.
- They currently leave Coundon at the end of Key Stage 2 in line with National Averages in Reading and Writing, but below in Maths.
- The children leave Coundon having made better progress than the National Average. Although this year, this was not the case in Maths.

We want to continue to build on our successes and improve upon those areas where the children are not achieving in line with National Averages. Maths is clearly an identified priority area.

School Priorities 2019 to 20

- To continue to raise attainment in Maths throughout the school with all stages making *at least* appropriate Age Related Expectations. (ARE)
- To provide a curriculum that develops a love of learning in children and ensures progression of key skills, knowledge and understanding in all subjects and prepares children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life in modern Britain
- To raise the attainment and accelerate the progress of boys to ensure they reach their maximum potential, particularly in English.

CURRICULUM

Whilst we believe we already offer a broad and balanced curriculum, we are going to review the current curriculum to ensure that your child's skills, knowledge and understanding is able to develop across the whole curriculum. We want the curriculum to be the best it can be for your children and to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern Britain.

We have already consulted with your children through the school council. Children have told us what they like about our current curriculum and have given suggestions for how we can improve it and make it more engaging for them.

During the first two teacher days in September 2019, staff and governors will continue to review our curriculum, to ensure we all know exactly what it is we are aiming for. We want to ensure we offer children curriculum that allows them to build upon their skills in all areas of learning, but also allows them to consolidate things they have already learned, and for them to feel that they can take responsibility. We really want our children to become resilient citizens, who have strategies to find the best solutions to any problems they may face, and to equip them with the skills to meet 21st Century Education and job opportunities.

READING

This year at Coundon, we have noticed that there is a gap widening between the attainment of boys compared to girls, particularly in Reading and Writing. We are doing all we can to make the curriculum more engaging for boys. We have purchased books and schemes that will help us to motivate them and have set up Reading Ambassadors and Buddies where the boys have male role models to read with. We will continue with Books for Breakfast and Book WOW days, in the hope that we can inspire the children to want to read more.

Reading at Home

Research has proved that, whilst it is the school's job to teach children to read, that children whose parents read with them at home leave school with over 30 million more words in their vocabulary by the time they leave school and enter the work force. The more a child reads, the greater their vocabulary builds, and it leads to significant improvements in a child's writing

too. Hence, we advise that parents read to and with their children regularly, trying hard to make it fun and not a chore. You can read books, comics, on computers, IPADs etc., anything that grabs their interest and keeps them motivated to read more. Then just ask questions about what they have read to check they are not just decoding words but understanding what they have read. Some good questions are -

Can you remind me what just happened in the story?

Why do you think that happened?

What do you think might happen next?

Why do you think the character acted like that?

Would you have done anything differently?

Who is your favourite character and why?

Can you guess how the book/comic/story might end?

Why do you think the author chose that word? (Pick out any describing words).

Thinking about the description of a character, could you draw a picture?

Mathematics

The key focus for this academic year is to raise attainment throughout the school in Mathematics with all key stages reaching at least appropriate age related expectations. We have a whole school approach to the teaching of Maths with clear learning intentions and small steps to build and develop Mathematical skills. The school uses Big Maths and TT Rockstars, alongside its Maths Curriculum. Big Maths is a targeted 20 minute extra session every day where the children build up their quick recall skills for number bonds and times table and division facts and TT Rockstars helps them to learn their times tables and rapid recall of facts, whilst having fun! We will provide a training session to parents in September to ensure a greater understanding of the purpose of these skills. Included within our Maths Curriculum we aim to develop a real mastery of Maths skills through problem solving and reasoning, providing our pupils with the skills to articulate their thinking both independently and in groups. We wish for all of our pupils to have an enthusiasm towards Maths learning and encourage our pupils to display resilience and determination to achieve and succeed. We have introduced 'WOW' days, which include practical investigative Maths through creative challenges and fun activities.

We are aware that many parents still do not understand the assessment system. The government raises the bar on standards every year; making it a challenge for children to reach Age Related Expectations and we appreciate this may seem frustrating for parents. We will do all that we can to prepare staff, children and parents for the expectations and will send you out some guidance on the expectations in Years 2 and 6 at the start of the school year. Teachers will be using a tracking system, which identifies the gaps in children's learning. All parents will be informed of their child's attainment and progress at termly Parent Consultations. If parents have concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school in between these times to speak to the teacher or leadership team.

'Age Related Expectation' is an end of year assessment on whether a child is 'secure' in the curriculum content taught that year...And whether they are ready to move onto the content of the next year group.

Thank you again for another lovely year. Your children continue to be a real credit to you and we do appreciate that we are in a fortunate position to be able to work with such lovely children and families. Have a good summer; we will see you all on Wednesday 4th September 2019.

Yours sincerely

Jayne Ellis
Headteacher