



# Cloverlea Primary School



23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

As December is fast approaching and people are busy preparing for events and celebrations, I wanted to share with you some of the progress we have made in recent weeks. As you know, we have been working closely with several external consultants who can help audit, support and advise on various school projects.

## **Maths:**

Mrs Djennati and Kylie Spark (NLE) have recently completed a Maths audit throughout school. This has provided us with really valuable feedback and enabled us to consolidate initiatives that were already on our Maths action plan and to implement and enhance other areas of the subject.

We are currently looking closely at our use of Maths manipulatives in every class. These are the practical maths apparatus that is used in classrooms (such as multilink cubes, Dienes, counters and bead strings). This is equipment that children can pick up and manipulate and which can help children to understand the relationship between numbers and the number system.

Manipulatives are physical teaching tools which engage pupils not just visually, but also physically. These learning tools include anything from coins to puzzles and blocks. The use of manipulatives is highly effective because pupils are actively involved in the learning process and it also supplements our teaching and learning approach in maths that is based on 'Concrete Pictorial Abstract' (CPA).

CPA a system of learning that uses physical and visual aids to build a child's understanding of abstract topics where pupils are first introduced to a new mathematical concept through the use of concrete resources. We are extremely excited at the development of this inclusive strand of implementation.

## **Parents evening:**

**Inspiring children to care, learn and achieve**

Tel / Fax: 0161 980 8338 | Email: [cloverleaprim.admin@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:cloverleaprim.admin@trafford.gov.uk) | [www.cloverlea.org.uk](http://www.cloverlea.org.uk)  
Green Lane North, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 7NQ



Thank you so much for attending the parents evening for your child/children. It provides the teachers and staff with a wonderful opportunity to share **progress, achievements and targets** and it enables you the parent/carer to share your thoughts.

### **Library:**

Our library is in full swing and it is fantastic to see such a wonderful resource being so readily and frequently accessed. Our new Library Software enables us to see which books the children are taking out and reading, enabling us to identify interests, hobbies and preferences. Again, we have just received a new batch of books called Little People, Big Dreams. These are lovely aspirational texts detailing the stories and dreams of inspirational characters such as Martin Luther King, Bruce Lee and David Attenborough. The texts start with their story from childhood. *From little acorns, great oaks grow.*

### **Diagnostics for intervention**

We have recently completed our diagnostics for reading fluency and to identify gaps in knowledge for Maths. This exercise was undertaken to enhance our existing intervention and inclusion strategy. The first cycle of our new intervention strategy begins on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Children that have been identified will be working in small groups twice a week on their focused area of need. The sessions will be between 15 and 20 minutes and will carefully track progress.

Parents of the individual children receiving additional intervention will be informed and further information sent home.

### **Teaching and Learning Approach**

As I have mentioned in a previous update, our Teaching and Learning approach is based on Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction and we have recently had training on the components Modelling, Sequencing and Questioning.

This has included training on:

- presenting new materials in small steps with pupil practice after every step
- limiting the amount of new material a pupil receives at one time
- giving detailed and clear instructions and explanations

**Inspiring children to care, learn and achieve**



- think aloud and model steps
- re-teaching material

Within questioning we are know that effective questioning lies at the heart of great instructional teaching so we focused on how to provide systematic feedback and correction consistently. We wanted to further enhance procedures that we use like think, pair, share or probing to explore a pupil's schema. Checking for a pupil's understanding is imperative and we need to ensure our approach to pupils is asking **what** they have understood as opposed to asking **if they have** understood.

All these elements are already within out practice but the training has helped focus and sharpen our thinking so that our questioning, sequencing and modelling is more effective.

### **Compassion**

In a recent school assembly I chose to focus my talk on compassion. We spoke about talking about feelings, kindness, sympathy and empathy. We focused on communities in the UK that are working hard to provide warm spaces, events and friendship for the most vulnerable in our neighbourhoods. People struggling with ill health, bereavement, loneliness and other pressures. I also suggested a period of reflection, so our children could also think about the people in other parts of the world who are experiencing hardship and loss. At this time of year, I feel it is especially important to think about others and how we can help in any way.

### **Governors**

Earlier this week we held our first full Governing board of the year. This was the first opportunity to invite and welcome our new governors. There have been several changes in the governing body in recent months: Mrs Carole Partington (Co-opted – Chair), Esyllt Williams (Parent Governor), Alice Taylor (Parent Governor), Kate Senior (Co Opted) and Zulekha Sidyot (Staff Governor).

Two governor training sessions have been arranged for over the coming weeks, particularly focusing on the detailed role of a School Governor. Key elements of the training include:

**Inspiring children to care, learn and achieve**



# Cloverlea Primary School



- governor roles and responsibilities
- strategic leadership and the governor role in school improvement
- providing challenge and support
- holding school leaders to account

We have a committed governing body and I am looking forward to continuing to work with our governors on our journey of improvement.

As ever, thank you so much for your continued support.

C McConnell

**Inspiring children to care, learn and achieve**

---

Tel / Fax: 0161 980 8338 | Email: [cloverleaprim.admin@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:cloverleaprim.admin@trafford.gov.uk) | [www.cloverlea.org.uk](http://www.cloverlea.org.uk)  
Green Lane North, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 7NQ