

Governors' Newsletter Spring 2017

We are sure you will agree it has been another busy Spring term where Mrs Ashford and her team continue to find many interesting and engaging activities to help children learn an increasingly challenging curriculum. It has been brilliant to see lots of you supporting your children/grandchildren with the reading challenge, attending school information evenings, EYFS stay and play sessions and events such as the year group end of topic fabulous finishers. We know the year 5/6 team were extremely pleased by your response to their living museum. There were many skills on show: maths, writing, history, geography, computer technology, programming, art, design and food technology to name a few; demonstrating how subjects are linked to a topic and making it meaningful to learners.

I'm sure you, as we do, appreciate the amount of time, planning and hard work that goes into these events by both children and staff, many of whom go above and beyond to ensure we get these opportunities to share children's achievements.

As we write this year 1&2 are preparing to share their work with parents/carers and year 3&4 are busy rehearsing, creating scenery and costumes ready for their Spring production.

As Governors we are always impressed to see how the children rise to their challenges with increasing confidence and independence.



Believe and achieve

March 2017

Special points of interest:-

- Equality update and Progress data
- Equality aims for 2017

Equality Update

As part of our Equality Duty as a school we have a requirement to inform you annually on our progress to meet our aims set out in our Single Equality Scheme. We plan to do this by way of this newsletter and by publishing on the school's website - trimley.net

Trimley St. Mary's Equality Aims for 2016 were:-

1. To continue to raise achievements and standards in Maths and writing, with a particular focus upon addressing the needs of different groups of children (including groups of boys, girls and the more able) across the school.

End of Key Stage 2 shows:-

Writing This was teacher assessed against the new criteria. Although still negative for progress, girls scored higher than the boys. Our disadvantaged children scored lower than the national average, but scored similarly to our non disadvantaged. All were below national average.

Maths Boys made better progress than girls, children classed as high ability scored significantly higher than comparable children nationally, as did those identified as low ability. Disadvantaged children scored below national average.

A full in depth report for EYFS, Year 1 phonics and end of both key stages can be found on www.ofsteddashboard.com

2. Continue to monitor the impact of Pupil Premium funding.
As above.

3. Continue to build on community cohesion links both local and global.

We continue our links with Somita Lower Basic School in Gambia. Our children have also attended a local fair trade event, becoming ambassadors for our school, learning what it means for Kenyan farmers to earn enough money to feed their family. We also continue to develop local links through school visits which have been in and around the Felixstowe area for various year groups, such as the year one trip to the Port of Felixstowe, giving them an increased awareness of their own community.

As many of you may remember, last year we informed you of the school's duties under the equalities legislation, Equality Act 2010, the general duties/aims on schools to:-

1. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
3. Foster good relations across all characteristics; between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share.

(Protected characteristic is used as a convenient term to refer to the categories to which the law applies)

There are 9 protected categories, disability, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity.



January 2017 school census shows:-

Total Number of children on school roll	Number that are girls	Children that qualify for Free School Meals	Children on Special Educational Needs register	Children with an Individual Health Care Plan not on Special Educational Needs register	Pupils on roll by ethnic group	Children with English as an additional language
392	186 (47%)	38 (10%)	43 (11%)	26(7%)	Mix of 14 codes	11 (3%)

Our Equality Aims for 2017

1. Improve the outcomes for middle attaining girls in writing and maths at end of Key Stage 2.
2. Close the gap between boys' and girls' writing scores by end of Key Stage 2.
3. To increase the number of children working 'at the expected standard' in maths by the end of Key Stage 1, and close the gap between disadvantaged and non disadvantaged children.
4. To promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural opportunities through all appropriate curricular opportunities with particular references to issues of equality and diversity.

A full review of our Accessibility Plan has now been carried out. Many thanks to those that either completed a questionnaire or gave their views verbally to a member of staff or Governor. It is important to gather views, from all stakeholders and we value your comments.

Our Accessibility Plan runs alongside other policies such as Single Equality Policy, Special Educational Needs Policy. These policies ensure all those in our school community are able to access all that school has to offer.

These policies are available to view on the school website trimley.net. If you require these in a different format please ask at the school office.

If you would like to become more involved in school life there are a variety of ways in which you can be of help.

If you are interested in becoming a school Governor contact Mr Colin Monk (chair of governors)

If you wish to volunteer or need more information please contact us via the front office where Mrs Savage and Mrs Barkworth will be happy to put you in contact with the appropriate person.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank parent/carers and the surrounding community for their continued support of the school. Working together as a team: pupils, teachers, parent/carers, volunteers, governors - in fact as a whole school community, we can help children achieve their true potential.

Together we can believe and achieve.

**Yours sincerely,
Your School Governors**

(A full list of your Governors is available in the school office or school website [-trimley.net](http://trimley.net))

To be read in conjunction with the Single Equality Scheme, Accessibility Plan, Special Educational Needs (SENDs) Policy, School Curriculum and Behaviour Policy.

If you require this information in a different format please enquire at the school office.