



Scampton Pollyplatt Community Primary School

School Lane
RAF Scampton
Lincoln
LN1 2TP

01522 730393

enquiries@pollyplatt.lincs.sch.uk

www.pollyplatt.lincs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr John Beaven

Trying to fly beyond our limits

Thursday 3rd November 2016

Dear Parents / Carers,

Tonight you should have received a copy of the letter that was sent to me after our recent Ofsted inspection. Firstly I would like to thank everyone for all their supportive words and actions during the inspectors visit. I was pleased to hear of all the positive statements. We have always felt so lucky to have such supportive parents who use our clear lines of communication when a problem occurs and offer us constructive feedback to help us improve.

Secondly I would like to thank the whole school team; they all work so hard. The staff have always put in over and above in all the work they do. Nothing is too small. Our children are clearly amazing; they work so hard to achieve the best they can. Our governing body work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that I am doing my job to the very best of my ability. We also have a really strong PTFA who always have the children's needs at heart; the group is made up of past parents, staff, current parents and governors.

I am pleased that Sally Smith identified many of the things that we think are good about our school such as our assessment practices, our family learning programme (which is so strongly supported), the work we do around environmental awareness and the attainment results at the end of Reception, in the phonics screen, at the end of year 2 and at the end of year 6 in writing and maths. As she outlined in her letter, we were very aware of the work we need to do to improve.

In reading, we have been working on developing our teaching of comprehension skills to ensure that those higher order inference and deduction skills develop as best they can. Miss Sopp, who is our English Subject Leader, has already developed a new approach to our teaching comprehension and has ensured that the work we are giving the children challenges them sufficiently enough. She has worked with Mr Wray and Mr Cosgrove to trial different approaches to guided reading to ensure inference and deduction skills are challenged in every session. This trial is complete and they are ready to roll it out across school. Over the coming term, teaching staff are working closely together within their units (infants and juniors) to develop the teaching of reading through what is called Lesson Study. They intend to work with each other to trial and develop this area of weakness so that it is strengthened. Miss Sopp is currently organising some more family learning sessions that will focus on reading and is then working on some evening events for parents on help to support their child's reading. The governors intend to monitor the work that is happening in school to ensure that it "does what it says on the tin" and develops our teaching of comprehension skills.

Over the coming year, we are continuing to develop our teaching and learning approach that was developed for maths – the 4Ps. The last P is Ponder which is all about the applying skills learnt in a variety of different situations. To stretch our pupils, including the most able and disadvantaged pupils, to reach the higher standards at the end of key stage 2 we feel it is vital that they are able to apply the skills they have learnt to any situation. We already ensure that all lessons have an extension activity that stretches the pupils learning further and are currently investigating avenues to extend this. The governing body are currently monitoring this work.

We had already identified the issue around persistent absenteeism, including for disadvantaged pupils and those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and the need to reduce this; this refers to the children who are absent for more than 10% of the year (19 days or more absent if a child was here for a full year). We currently monitor attendance and RAG rate it (Red, Amber, Green method of monitoring), informing parents in their child's report. We celebrate those children who have 100% attendance. It is our intention to bring together a working group from our school community to help us develop this area further; part of their work will be about strengthening the current policy on taking holidays in term time as this has affected our data in previous years.

The last area has already been done. The school's website was updated when the new logo was released. All the information stated in the report has been added and updated.

We value the support parents give us and would welcome help and ideas from the whole school community. If you feel you have something to offer to support the development of our school then please contact me.

Yours sincerely,



John Beaven
Head Teacher