**Headteacher’s report to Governors November 2017**

We now have 452 children in school which is a rise of 15 children since census and we have more children waiting to come into school. This has a financial implication as we will not receive funding for all of these children in next year’s budget.

**Curriculum:**

This half term we have had a friendship themed week, Spanish Day and lots of sporting activities including skipping training for all the children, climbing for Y6 to develop resilience, match fit and increased participation in sporting tournaments**.** In Harmony is well under way and we are hearing some really positive comments from staff, children and parents. The school nurse has been in to do some workshops with the children and we have had cycle training for both our young and older children.

All of Key Stage One and Two visited the Cinema last week and a panto company came to school to perform Cinderella. Y1, Y5 and Y6 also went to visit the authors of the texts they are reading in class, Vivian French and Gill Arbuthnot.

**Continuing Professional Development and Appraisals**

Support staff appraisals are underway and will be completed by the end of term, they reflect the whole school priorities. The pay review committee met before half term and agreed the recommendations to move relevant teaching staff up the increment scale following their successful appraisals. Middle leaders have received time and training this term to enable them to successfully carry out their wider role in school. One of those training opportunities was available to all schools across our Trust. Staff in Y2 and Y6 have had reading resilience training this half term which aims to develop the children’s persistence when reading challenging texts. We have had two training sessions on developing speech and language, further coaching from our Read Write Inc coach and attachment training. Our English Coordinator has also had Read Write Inc leadership training.

Vision Day – following on from our Vision Day the Senior Leadership Team have been looking at capturing all the discussion. We have developed a word cloud to show all the positive comments made about being part of Bridgewater. This has been created by our computing students from Newcastle Universities. We will be making changes to the wording of each section over coming weeks.

Sheelagh Tickell our Achievement Partner (School Improvement Partner) has been for her termly visit, see attached report. We did joint lesson observations and looked at books. During that same week all the other classes were observed by the Head and deputy and the senior leadership team looked at maths books across the school. All staff were given detailed feedback. Overall we were very impressed with what we saw and children were clearly further on in their learning compared to previous years at this time. New staff were very impressive and had clearly acted upon previous feedback given.

**Staffing**: We have had to end some supply contracts and are looking to make some further reductions at the end of this term, this was due to our numbers not being as high as hoped on census day. We have had to make some changes to the ARC staffing due to absence and the needs of the children and now have four members of staff working with the children during each session. This has involved moving some staff from other parts of the school.

Our Extended Services Manager is on long term sick as she has badly broken her leg and one of our support staff has been absent for 3 weeks following a bereavement, we have also had a number of short term absences none of which is covered by our supply insurance. We also know a member of our support staff will be absent for a few months after Christmas as she is having a significant operation.

**Premises**: Volunteers from Beachcroft have been helping to develop our forest school area. We had a Health and Safety audit visit last week. A visit we have every three years to check everything is in place. The assessor was very impressed with our systems, record keeping and management of Health and Safety. A huge thank you to our Business Manager and Premises Manager who are merticulous in their approach in this area.

**Data**: see Data Dashboard and commentary – you will see we are in the top 20% of schools for progress.

**SEF/SIP** : full report will be tabled at the meeting.

**PE premium report:** The Government has increased the funding and we are spending this on additional coaches for in school and out of school provision, skipping training for the whole school and increased swimming. We have also added resilience training for Y6.

**Budget:** We are moving towards the National Funding Formula and at the moment that looks favourable for Bridgewater. However there are a number of factors which we need to be cautious of. It was predicted we would need 78k to set next year’s budget which we were unlikely to find from this year’s contingency, increasing numbers after census day, unpredictable numbers in our 0-3, changes to LAC, mobility, reception uplift factors in the formula and changes to the high needs block.

**Trust:** Some of our Reception class and their families have been working on areading project with Seven Stories. The funding for this came from Well North and all of our Trust schools have access to this opportunity. Our Trust Officer has also obtained funding for lego clubs and horse riding to develop resilience for some Y6 children. Newcastle University are also likely to be able to provide additional resources to put in a bid for a coordinator for the Children’s Community. Canning Street have appointed a substantive Head so from next term all of our Trust Schools will have permanent Head teachers again. We are exploring the possibility of changing our Local Authority representative on the board for someone more connected to the West End.

**Fund raising**: The Big Challenge fund raising event organised by FOB so far has raised £4500. We have also applied to the Aviva fund and Chronicle fund but are still waiting to hear if we have been successful.

Policies reviewed this term: Assessment and Feedback, Pay Policy, all risk assessments have been reviewed, Admission policy, Business Continuity Plan and Emergency plan.