**Head Teacher report to Governors March 2018**

**Curriculum and projects**

We started this half term with one of our themed weeks, ‘Book week’. During the week we celebrated our love of books and had a number of visits and visitors. The author Mark Carton worked with classes across the school, there were trips to Benwell library to register our Nursery children, each class re-vamped their reading areas and each class had a visit from Chris Bostock the story teller. The ‘Beast from the East’ did cause us to close school for three days but we still had our own ‘World Book Day’ where the children were dressed as their favourite character or to represent a word to link in with developing their vocabulary. The children also all received their free World Book Day books thanks to Waterstones.

Last week we took 20 children on our annual trip to London. The children included our KS2 school council and children who had persuaded their teachers to nominate them because of letters they had written. We visited Parliament and Downing Street. We went to the Theatre to see the west end show ‘School of Rock’, went on a bus tour and visited Tower Bridge where we were able to walk along the glass walkway on top. We also managed to squeeze in a visit to Buckingham Palace.

Other projects this half term include Y5 taking part in a fund raising project with Newcastle Building Society, they are through to the final round and are planning a fund raising event that involves putting on a show, ‘Bridgewater’s Got talent’ and selling tickets, programmes and refreshments. The money raised will support our ‘ In harmony’ project. Y1 and their parents are to visit Sage Gateshead as part of their ‘In Harmony’ project to familiarise themselves with the building as they will be performing and visiting their regularly in the future.

Y3 are entering the dance festival next week and our choir are performing in the Concordia concert at the City Hall next week too.

Enterprise is one of our curriculum drivers which is why we accepted the opportunity to be part of a pilot to promote the career opportunities in the NHS as part of its 70th birthday. The children also took part in a survey to see if their knowledge improves during the project.

Another project we are involved with is the WOW project, this enables us to look at how we can improve parking around the site. One of their coordinators did a survey of the site with representatives of the school council and we await the results.

**Monitoring, SIP & SEF**: We have had our termly visit from Sheelagh Tickell our Achievement Partner– see report for priorities and evidence of impact. Our focus was observing teaching and learning in Y5 where our newest members of staff are and looking at the wider curriculum by doing a work scrutiny. The lessons observed were very impressive and overall the books showed good evidence of progress. There is still some work to do on mastery across the curriculum and the content of the Y3 books but steps have been put in place to address this.

Spelling is a focus this year and we had a sponsored spell at the end of last half term to raise its profile and raise money for spelling resources. We raised £850 so we are able to buy the RWInc spelling resources.

Y2 & Y6 are preparing for SATs and will be having an Easter school again this year. Parents have also attended information sessions so they understand all about the tests. Y1 are also preparing for the phonics test and our Read Write Inc coach has also been supporting us. We hosted a training session for schools across the north last week who are also deliver RWInc.

**Achievements:**

We achieved the Extended Services Quality Mark for the third time and a Heritage Award for the work Y5 children did in producing a fact book about Newcastle.

We are finalists for the Shine Award which recognises our work with our children with additional needs and we were sent a letter from the Government praising us as we are in the top 2% nationally for progress.

**Budget and staffing:**

We are currently working on setting our 2018/19 budget & SLAs, we are aiming to retain all our provision and services and we will be able to have an additional teacher from September.

We have received some funding from Lord Beecham, £1500, to support our mental health provision.

Staffing: One of our TAs is absent as she is recovering from an operation, we have 3 teaching students in KS1, 1 maternity leave in 0-3 and a teacher on long term absence. Most of this absence is covered by supply staff and we are claiming supply insurance.

I will be receiving from the national college to formally mentor new Headteachers, something that has happened informally for a few years now. I have also put my name forward to be an Ofsted Inspector which would entail some days out of school for which the school would receive funding.

**Premises:** Our trim trails are finally to be repaired and we are having to relocate our bins due to changes with the service from the council.

**Trust update**:– The Children’s Community group are focusing on ‘moving on’ linked with transition, we are also developing our work with secondary schools, continuing to share training and best practice, working with Open Lab, continuing our work on developing vocabulary which is being led by the DHT’s, and our SEND Coordinators are working together to share practice, information and develop ways of working with parents.

**Parents:**

We have run a parent course focusing on parents whose child presents with challenging behaviour, this has been very well received by the parents who attended. We have also had reading & story sack sessions for parents and the Learning Trust have met with our parents’ council.