



High Green Primary School
Governors Spring 2018 Term Newsletter

We are well into our Spring term now and wanted to update you on what is going on in the school and any changes. Having battled snow, wind and ice, we now look forward to the rest of term being a sunny spring!

SPRING FOCUS - EXPLORE - GEOGRAPHY AND MUSIC

Just a reminder that the key skills the children are focusing on in spring under EXPLORE, are Geography and Music. The next focus in summer is INVENT, when the focus will be on Science, Computing and Design Technology.

Governors are having updates from staff to monitor the impact of the new curriculum throughout the year. Any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher.

STAFF CHANGES

The school's Business Manager, Mr Grey, has left us after Christmas to move on to a new position. We wish him all the best. We are happy to welcome into the role of School Business Manager, Mrs Aldridge. Mrs Aldridge has a history of working in schools and we are very happy to have her join the school.

We have also now got a full team in the Early Years Foundation class. Miss Latham is the new Teaching Assistant that we are very pleased to welcome into the team.

READING FOCUS

Reading is always a big focus in school and we just wanted to give some information on how we are working on it this year.

In school the children do guided reading every day for 30 minutes, where the children read the same guided reading book for the whole week and complete different written activities based on the guided reading book. Such activities include: plot to plot, character profile, grapheme phoneme spotter activities and a guided reading activity. The children complete these activities once a day, four times a week. The other day is spent reading with the teacher as part of the teacher's focus group. During this session the children will review

what they have read so far and the questions/activities they have completed the previous day, if it's a new book they will predict what they think the text will be about etc., they will then read to the teacher and at the end of the session they will answer deeper learning questions asked by the teacher. The teacher will focus on extracting as much detail from the child's answers and using inference and deduction style questions.

Every child in school uses and understands the PEEE approach and this is stuck in their guided reading text book (where they answer the activity questions) this stands for make your POINT, EXPLAIN your answer, EXPAND on your answer and EVIDENCE, use the text to back up your answer, below is an example of the Y2 PEEE.

Point – 'I think that...'

Explain – 'I think this because...'

Expand – 'Another reason is...'

Evidence – 'The text says.....'

We now have Begums book club for pupils who have reached the end of our reading scheme (Collins Big Cat). The children choose a novel from the Y6 classroom and each night are expected to read a chapter. The next day pupils find and answer questions on it. This helps deepen the children's understanding of books and practise answering deeper learning questions in depth with more detail, and to help get them prepared for the Y6 SATS style questions.

During Spring we will be investing money in more going home books so that we have a wider range of genres and more available for the children to enjoy reading at home. We are looking to put a new home reading system in place in KS1 and lower KS2. The children will be sent home with a guided reading book once a week, when the book is returned a new one will be sent home.

Each class has an author study where they read a book by that author; this is shared during story time and English lessons. Where possible, these are linked to the class topic. Pupils are encouraged to bring in books of interest to them, and where possible, their teachers will always try to read them to the class or allow the pupils to share them with friends. Mrs Smales is continuing to ask children to bring in photographs of anywhere extreme they have read and these pictures go on the Extreme Reading! display.



GUITAR CLUB

The school now has guitar lessons opened up to the Y3 pupils at the beginning of October every year. It is offered to everyone but 10 successful pupils are chosen via an aptitude test. When picked, they get a guitar and case to practise at home, and use during the lesson. Half hour lessons take place every Thursday at 12.30pm so it is during the pupils lunch break. They learn a range of notes and eventually play along to music. The pupils get the opportunity to play at different concerts throughout the year such as the Summer Fayre, Easter concert and Xmas Fayre. The lessons, which are great fun and very relaxed, are free and finish at the end of year 3 but there is opportunity through the music hub to continue at a cost.

MUSIC

Music continues to flourish at High Green Primary School. The number of pupils taking lessons on the piano, violin, viola, brass, drums and guitar is increasing term by term. The ever popular school choir gave yet another superb performance at Sheffield Cathedral in December. The recent Make Music Week was a huge success, with all the children engaging in music-making. At High Green Primary School we firmly believe in giving all children the opportunity to enjoy music, to listen to and appreciate music, to learn to play an instrument, to learn to play together, to experience the joy of singing, to be part of a choir, to perform in front of others and to learn about the structure of music and its written form. If your son or daughter would like to learn a musical instrument, please speak with the Headteacher or our Link Music Leader from Sheffield Music Hub, Julie Doubleday. Further details about instrumental lessons and the many music groups available to our students can be found at www.sheffieldmusicclub.org.

INSET DAYS REMINDER

The two remaining inset days for this academic year are:

Monday 23 July 2018

Tuesday 24 July 2018

The children's last day at school will be Friday 20 July 2018.

COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK

If you have any feedback that you would like to share with the governors, or any questions that you would like to ask, you can contact us by going to the governor's zone on the school website. You can then select 'submit a question'. Alternatively, you are welcome to approach one of us in the playground during drop-off or pick-up.

