



Hamstead Junior School Newsheet June 2014

Working, learning and achieving together

The Inspection special...Moving Forward.

This Newsletter is sent to accompany the Inspection report, written by the two Inspectors who visited the school on 13-14th May. You can also view a copy of the attached report on our website:

www.hamsteadjuniorschool.co.uk

Hamstead has always seen itself as a good school where we attempt to continually improve the opportunities for all of our children. Since the introduction of Ofsted inspections the school has been recognized in the following ways.

1997 Satisfactory (This would now be termed as Requiring Improvement)

2001 Good

2006 Good

2010 Good

2013 Interim Assessment identified Good

2014 Requiring Improvement.

The report focuses on the children in School now and the past performance of children who have left the school. This Newsheet is sent to reassure parents that the School is addressing issues raised by the report, with the Inspectors recognizing this and indeed stating that school is, **'taking decisive action to improve the quality of teaching and raise standards, and both are rising rapidly.'**

The report recognises many of the steps that school has taken over the last few years to ensure our children are able to meet and exceed expected standards. These are steps we will continue to develop going forward.

The report confirms what we already know about school from our own rigorous monitoring schedule, and inspectors recognised that **'Senior leaders have a very accurate understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses...'** and, **'are taking decisive action.'** Ensuring further improvements will continue to be at the centre of planning for the future.

We are committed to maintaining the learning ethos of HJS, recognised as a strength by the visiting inspectors. We were delighted by the positive comments made by inspectors following observation of children in and out of class, and also after their meetings with groups of children, who they selected at random, and also about the feedback they received from the parents who were happy to talk to them as children were dropped off at the start of the day. Our aim is that by the next inspection HJS is not only showing improvement to be recognized as good, but that it aspires to be outstanding. Working with parents to achieve this will be very important as we continue to work, learn and achieve together.

Mr T. Bowen.

Head Teacher

How well are our children doing?

We would like to assure parents that attainment and progress of all of our children is very closely tracked as they move through the school, and this will continue to be the case despite national changes in September, resulting in the removal of levels within a Key stage. Due to actions already taken by school to secure improvement we are able to report that children currently in our school are attaining well.

All year groups are attaining above national expectations both in Reading and Maths. The children in **Years 5 and 6 are also working above national expectations in writing**, with Year 3 and 4 making progress from their entry baseline to reach national expectations.

In deciding upon how well children are taught our inspectors would have looked at results from last year's Year 6 children. These are set out below for parents information.

Attainment in maths for last year's year 6 was good. Parents will be aware of the changes made to the teaching and learning of maths over the last two years. We look forward to our current children continuing to benefit from these changes and your greater involvement.

Last year's Year 6 attained broadly in line with the national average in reading. The work done this year on promoting the enjoyment of reading was in response to last year's performance and the partnership between home and school in promoting reading remains an action for next year. The report acknowledges the work done and reports that, '**pupils progress in Reading and Mathematics has accelerated and is now good.**'

Last year's Year 6 attainment in writing was disappointing and the development of writing as a school is an on going priority.

As part of changes we make to further improve writing across the school we will be ensuring that your children are asked to write more frequently, and we will also be focusing more heavily on presentation and spelling.

In developing reading and writing, we will attempt to ensure that homework activities are clearer so that parents are able to support their children as they make progress.

Parents view...Your views of the school

Many thanks to the parents who completed parentview online and to the parent who asked others to do so via facebook. Thanks also to those of you who chose to complete the paper questionnaires returned in March 2014.

Parent view based its results on 49 responses, producing different results when compared to the 50 paper responses received in March. Your feedback in both shows that children are happy at school, feel safe and are well looked after. Your responses show that the appropriateness of homework is an issue which school needs to tackle. A short questionnaire will be sent this term so that our new homework policy and home school agreement can take account of all of your views.

The other concern most apparent from parent view, but not the paper survey concerned behaviour. I hope parents are reassured by the inspection report comment that, '**Behaviour in and around the school is consistently good**'

The issue of bullying, and how it is dealt with is also highlighted in the survey, and again it is pleasing to note that your children when asked by inspectors reported that, '**bullying is not a problem in the school,**' and that the children, '**display a good understanding of the different forms of bullying, including cyber bullying.**'

This year we have striven to continue to develop and improve our good partnerships with parents and the local community. These continue to be of great importance and we value your contribution now and as we move forward.