

Wilden V. A. Primary School

A Church of England School



High Street, Wilden, Bedford MK44 2PB

Tel/fax: 01234 771313

e-mail: office@wildenschool.org.uk

www.wilden.beds.sch.uk



Wilden VA C of E Primary School - update on progress made 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wrote to you in December 2019 giving you an update on progress made in relation to Ofsted priorities. I am writing to give you further updates on the progress made since that time.

We had a Local Authority review in March 2020; here are the headlines from that report:

- Pupils enjoy reading and are improving their reading. Pupils receive books to take home which they enjoy and that contain words they can decode confidently and understand. As a result, their reading fluency is strengthened.
- The curriculum is planned so that fiction and non-fiction books support learning themes.
- Leaders are ensuring that pupils are making strong progress in writing. Pupils are writing for a purpose, drafting and editing, talking about how they improve their work, and some are able to explain how their writing is designed for a specific audience. Pupils write well across the curriculum and are proud to show their work.
- Pupils are learning skills of scientific enquiry. For example, fair testing. Quizzes at end of the day help pupils retain knowledge, as does their presentation of their learning to their parents (Autumn 2019).
- There have been no allegations of bullying for many months.
- Pupils interact well together and speak of strong relationships with their peers and teachers. The quality of behaviour observed was strong.
- Staff consistently report that changes have led to stronger leadership of safeguarding and SEND. Staff feel there is more rapid follow-up when concerns arise. The needs of pupils with SEND are now met more effectively.
- Leaders have rightly focussed on improving progress and attainment, particularly in core subjects. They have been successful.
- The leadership of early years is strong, because of the quality of relationships between staff and children and between children, the progress children make, and their readiness for the next stage of their education. High quality support is given to children to enable their reading to flourish. It is a strength that books are carefully chosen based on children's emerging interests. Children's motivation to write is augmented by teachers ensuring there is a clear purpose to writing tasks. Children are already finding resources, like sound mats, independently to improve their writing. Children's writing development is supported intelligently by leaders linking writing to reading.
- Leaders have improved the quality of education and school effectiveness.

Since our return to school in September, we have focussed on the following:

- Recovery plan to ensure all pupils are feeling safe and ready to learn. This has included mental health activities, assessing children's gaps in reading, writing and maths at the beginning of term



and re-assessing at the end of this term, delivering intervention programmes and rolling out blended learning through Mymaths and Bug Club.

- Developing the leadership of the school: two members of staff have started leadership courses this term; Mrs Byrne has passed the NASENCO course.
- Governor visits in the core subjects and Safeguarding.
- We have developed the quality of education in foundation subjects; we have focussed on scientific enquiry and computing - online safety. The acquisition of 15 new laptops has improved the Computing curriculum and has allowed blended learning to happen more frequently as well as independent learning.
- RSE policy has been written and a new PSHE scheme (Cambridgeshire Primary Personal Development Programme) has been rolled out.
- Dealing immediately with occasional incidents of behaviour and putting in strategies to reduce incidents of behaviour in the playground e.g. assessing children's mood and taking action as necessary.
- We are an Early Adopter school for Early Years; EYs staff have attended all the training.
- We continue to work on the areas for development from our SIAMs inspection: we have strong links with St. Nicholas Church; we have planned in opportunities for spiritual development as part of our curriculum; children have been involved in planning and leading some collective worship.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Wilden VA Primary School and am really pleased with what has been achieved by the Wilden team. Your children are delightful and I am so glad I have been a part of their learning journey.

Have a lovely Christmas and very best wishes for the future,

Mrs Maria Hutchinson
Interim Head Teacher