

St Thomas' C.E. Primary School

Curriculum Committee Meeting

11 March 2015

4.00pm – 6.00pm

Present: Mrs Lord
Mr Hassan
Mrs Umer (Chair)
Mr Cannon
Mrs Simpson
Miss Gangrekar
Miss Arshad
Mrs Robinson

In Attendance: Mr Noon
Mrs Butterworth
Mrs Smith (Minutes)

Minute No.	Text/Issue	Action
1	<u>Apologies For Absence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Father Martin	
2	<u>Declaration Of Pecuniary Interests</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">None declared.	
3	<u>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">CL talked through the minutesRG noted a spelling mistake on item 6 Report on Results and Standards should read deprivation.IU – SEN code of practice didn't have chance to meet to discuss is everything ok. CL confirmed it was. Teachers IEP's CL confirmed that the teachers have always written them and CRS supports the them.IU – SEN policy is it still work in progress. CL – Policy currently presented is what it is more education health plans. There are two children going forward for health plans. New terminology.IU – went on parent workshop. Maths good experience. Children enjoyed it and given gifts. Impact crucial. DS – helps in terms of Ofsted good idea of children's background has to impact. Compared to Belthorn no barriers. CL barriers are tackled. Staff step out of	

	<p>comfort zone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RG noted Pupil Premium. DS explained not really a good indicator. PP children benefit and other children who are not on FSM desperately need. Compared with other schools we are in the same group. CL added that we make it work for us. DS – the more PP the better. • IU - Overview of the subjects really appreciate. 	
4	<p><u>Extra Curricular Activities – Liam Noon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IU – presented Mr Noon • LN – explained and delivered a presentation of all the activities on each day. Put together extracurricular activities and clubs. Taken a lot of time and done a generic table. • UA – Debate Club - topic about the chickens. Group the children and meet once a week. Amazing how they come together. • Discussion re the debate with Wensleyfold who won the trophy St Thomas' can try and win it back. Children take it really seriously. The vocabulary and how they conduct themselves is amazing. And really understand the procedures. • DS talked about the Lego club. Got to the National Final drawing Manga Characters and made websites and blogs. Did really well. The old lego team will recruit a new team. Standards at the finals were phenomenal and were amazing with lots of home schooled children and lots more from high schools. 9-16 years so no age groups. Our team did themselves proud. • LN talked about the trip to Blackburn Rovers with Mr Tindall. Children loved it. AR commented that the girls were disappointed they did not go and could possibly arrange to take next time. • LN – Table top games at St Bedes introducing different games. Children absolutely loved it. IU commented it takes the children away from play stations. • LN – Try to offer a wide range of sports. Cycling is coming up and chosen 2 children. • LN - Young Voices was tiring and was an amazing day that the children won't forget. 7500 children attend the Manchester Arena. • CL - Creative Arts to Teach Christianity in schools has been passed on to Mrs Clements. Won an award for the Nativity and had a trip to Chester Cathedral to collect. • LN – Boccia regional finals. Lost by one. The children were a pleasure to take and loved it. • Mr Simpsons Drama is a success and is improving the children's speech impacts on their writing • School Farm – children having the respect for the animals. DS the farm is encouraging children to have pets at home. Rabbits receive lots of attention. All responsible involved in checking 	

	<p>for eggs and feeding. Children been on a Chicken Keepers course. UA – there is a timetable and children remind each other. The eggs are going to the kitchen and are being used in the breakfast club. Monitor badges have been ordered for the children to wear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IU- looking at trying to do different activities. Speaker of the week children invited to do a spoken piece. Lots of interest and want to get up and speak. DS talked explained about how she found the idea. • IU thanked Mr Noon 	
<p>5 & 6</p>	<p><u>SDP Priorities and Strategies for Reading, Writing and Maths</u> <u>New Curriculum – with reference to outdoor provision</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CL – big things working on outdoor. Big focus to enhance outdoor in line with the National Curriculum. Lots of work outside Woodland Walk has been done. Need to get the cleaners on to clear the rubbish from next door. This is ongoing. • Experiences are enhancing the children’s writing. UA Project writing about the chickens. Low ability children have experiences in school. Been making omelettes with the eggs. Debating and writing to increase levels bring in to the classroom it’s all linking and the children are enjoying themselves. Extra homework happening. • CL – Debates enhance clarity of speech. CL commented on the Wensleyfold debate and how she was blown away and talked about one particular debate that occurred. UA added that the children who would never usually have their hand up are more confident. IU noticed that the children gladly took all the questions at Wensleyfold. CL – being able to compose themselves has been stunning. • CL – Pip St.John is doing a lot of work with the teaching of vocabulary. DS - big push on reading. RG commented the vocabulary should expand. • Discussion regarding reading and writing and missing punctuation. New curriculum massive push on grammer. Children do well so hard putting it together. IU explained a situation where children are now saying things with grammer. • CL – lots of work around school with the new curriculum change to outside the children are out more. DS & LN making a mud kitchen. Would like to do some work to the ¼ circle area outside will give lots of opportunities. • AR – implement lunch time activities. Children to research playground games via the school council. • Discussion re implantation around the new curriculum. Last few weeks after Christmas had a big monitoring exercise talking to children. Looked at planning and book scrutiny. There 	

	<p>are areas for development. DS every subject leader has their own areas. Good to take on responsibilities. IU asked if CL was happy with the teachers and CL confirmed that everyone gets written feedback and it was positive. Will look at again after May half term. DS added that we are so lucky that when staff are asked to do something they do it and are really good.</p>	
7	<p><u>New Assessment Framework</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DS explained the expectations. Got to transfer in to progress. Use tests rather than levels percentage of expected place. • LB explained the tests results. Will be a brand new set of data. • New curriculum expectations in Maths dropped 2 yrs. It's going to look like the children are dropping. • Going to be a challenge. Interesting listening in meetings. CL explained that lots of people are inventing and it will be completely different. Schools have different systems and don't know what they are going to use. DS - there are lots of published schemes and we are going to trial Rising Stars. Will make the right one for us. IU expressed concern as a parent about the levels. DS confirmed that each child will know what they are going to be. • LB - Year 5 class have trialled the tests. Children understood how close they were to 100. Lots of questions asked. • Discussion re SATS. DS confirmed that this will be the last year using SATS. • PC noted that the levels are reversed and Level 9 is the highest. 	
8	<p><u>Reflections on December KS1/KS2 results and actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LB distributed a document showing percentages and explained the contents. Age related expectations on track. LB gave a quick overview of the document. Lots of high quality readers. UA - big focus on writing and will have fresh results. Circles on the document show big changes and a boost in areas. • Yr 6 maths big focus aiming for level 4. Yr 5 reading really good. LB's class doing really well 70% on track last year now 93%. • Discussion re the results and percentages and how they work. • The table is what the staff receive. LB explained her own class results. Mr Tindall's class results have risen. Big Maths being used in Year 5. Having a big impact. CL - staffing is deployed. IU - noticed the results in Mr Tindall's class. Yr 5 very high ability and are doing really well. Good path into year 6 and have potential. • Yr 4 are strong readers particular strength at the moment. Lisa Morton is working a lot on reading. Big impact increased to 77% focusing more on Maths using Big Maths. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IU asked for an explanation on Big Maths. LN found from another school and is being used as an add on. Children know to move in to groups for 20 minutes on Big Maths. Mental maths and is a massive change. • Year 3 staffing problems and not as much evidence in the books. • Year 2 massive impact percentage on track has flown up. • Year 1 are levelling and a lot of work with Assessment. • Writing as a school needs a boost. Lot more model writing. Staff sharing good practice and observing each other. CL – had the opportunity to have peer to peer observations. Staff now know their children really well. Intervention programmes lots of high quality which meets the needs of the children. • IU – its clear maths intervention has worked but writing clearly a concern. LB agreed that writing has always been slightly lower. LB – shocked that the children do not get the opportunities to be able to do creative writing. LB gave an example from when it snowed and it showed good examples of writing from the experience of going out in the snow. • Pip St.John is involved with literacy work and narrative work has been suggested. Pip is a language consultant and works with the children at lower levels. IU – explained an example of using pictures builds up the confidence. • IU thanked Ms Butterworth 	
9	<p><u>Primary School Assessment – Update on the Progression</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the new data Governors will meet again. • Deadline for data is the end of 1st week after Easter 17 April 2015 • Will arrange to meet the 3rd week w/c 27.4.15. Governors agreed Wednesday 29 April 2015 at 4pm and will meet in LR's classroom • Will have breakdown of interventions to discuss as well and share everything. • DS – still using our criteria. Mr Hassan explained what they are doing at their school. Staff at ease going back to grading. • CL- using Ofsted criteria and missing elements are there. • DS – Triangulating really good. Could give examples which had impacted on learning. The children liked using other resources and not listening to the teacher all the time. UA added that she doesn't bombard the table and the children get their own resources that they would like. • Discussion re student voices influence the children to have their opinions 	
10	<p><u>I PADs - Dean</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CL – an application has gone in to become a RTC Regional Training Centre for Apple. Just waiting for the results. • Pleckgate are the secondary school and St Thomas' could be the primary in the area which is a 30 mile radius from the next one. • Teachers will use techniques to enhance their lessons. Can create E books, Voice recording using different APPS. Children do it all automatically. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CL – will talk with the Finance Committee about the implications with regards to purchasing. Would be a 3 year plan. ● Enhances the learning but the children think they are playing ● Training programme with the staff arranged. Working party called 'The Trolls' few more staff on board. Francis is working with the children. ● CL - RTC is a big thing for the school. Lots of meeting with Apple. Big turnaround 2 weeks. Will be a big launch everyone invited to hold conferences. 	
11	<p>Website/St Thomas Facebook (Social Networking)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DS suggested looking at the Website on the screen. School also has a twitter account useful for sharing information with other schools. ● A company called Blip it monitor and manage the facebook page ● Our children should not be on facebook because of their age ● DS ran through the facebook page . Parents give consent for the photographs to be used. Families who live in other countries can access to see. A really good way of cataloguing and archiving. ● Governors listened to Young Voices on the site. ● Plenty on the page there is a link to the newsletter. Don't have to have facebook to see it DS – did originally have a closed group. Majority of parents do have facebook. It's easier to load things ● IU showed concern regarding the Social Networking Policy. DS confirmed that staff should not like the page. Everything is monitored by Blip it and the filter is really high. Very little problems. Run over 160 schools. Don't get parents abusing the school and the comments have been fantastic from the parents. ● If there is anything inappropriate there is a button to close the page immediately. Mr Hassan asked what other service Blip it provides. DS explained and confirmed that the school receive monthly reports. ● Big responsibility to take on. DS commented on how Ofsted found it useful in other schools as a way of communicating about parents views. ● IU – Governors have to agree with the social networking policy and code of conduct. ● CL – in the parents section on the website E Safety has appeared with a number of guides for parents. ● School farm has pictures of the chickens. Speaker of the week has been added the governors listened to the post. ● CL – We are the strategic partner of TEAM. The beginning of the text is still gibberish and still has teething issues. Governors saw the Child Mentors poster on the site and teachers can buy in to training courses. 	
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PP difficult to keep a track of children are on FSM then come off. ● It is on the website how the school have used the last PP does need updating though. Governors were shown the report on the website. ● Designated homework club is part of the PP expenditure. Vicky includes LAC as well. Also the drama club that Paul Simpson holds on a Saturday 	

	<p>is paid for out the PP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSM that don't need any additional support it is always difficult and a challenge to spend the money. Some children who are not FSM need it. • Impact on Year 6 children who don't have space at home to do their homework. All clubs need supervising and it's where the cost is. • The school has 4 Looked after children at the moment. • Spent on specialist teachers to develop class teachers. • Good links with BCHS there is no charge and can borrow equipment. Discussion regarding BCHS's help. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RG asked if a forward planner of events could go on the website. Will know a month in advance to be able to attend. • The newsletter should be emailed to the Governors. Key data on the newsletter and has events on that are coming up. • IU expressed concern about events after school regarding the Mosque threatening a child for singing and was fined £50 IU explained the situation in great depth. CL added that it is not the child's fault. The mosques could be given the dates of events which collide. Cllr Varmani had said he would speak to the mosques. Could invite the Mosques into school for a meeting write a letter to invite. Music events are a problem. UA – should approach the Lancashire Council of Mosques. Foster a better relationship. A lot of children get a lot of torment. Respecting the personal values the children have pressure. 	<p>DS to ask RM</p> <p>IU</p>
	<p>CL & IU thanked everyone for attending</p>	