

**St Thomas' C.E. Primary School**

**Curriculum Committee Meeting**

**9<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

4.10pm – 5.45pm

**Present:**

Miss Y Arshad  
Mr L Noon  
Mrs D Simpson  
Mr A Fulat  
Mrs A Robinson  
Mr P Cannon  
Mrs I Umer  
Mrs H Manzoor – arrived at 4.40pm

**Apologies:** Ms Gangrekar  
Fthr Martin

**In Attendance:** Miss C Dootson  
Mrs D Briggs

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Text/Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b><u>Apologies For Absence</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms Gangrekar</li><li>• Fthr Martin</li></ul>	
<b>2</b>	<b><u>Declaration Of Pecuniary Interests</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None declared.</li></ul>	
<b>3</b>	<b><u>Minutes Of Last Meeting</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agreed as a true and accurate record.</li></ul>	
<b>4</b>	<b><u>RTC Report – Yusra Arshad, RTC Co-ordinator</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• YA – Additional I pad courses have been advertised on our website. St Thomas' RTC offer twelve free training courses a year. YA explained to the committee that the free sessions don't just have to be a training day for teachers they can for example be a one to one session with a colleague or a meeting for parents.</li><li>• YA invited parents into school, as one of the above mentioned sessions, to talk about Google Drive and how it is being implemented at St Thomas'. The feed back from parents has been extremely positive. Google Drive is currently being rolled out to Year 5 and Year 6.</li><li>• E safety sessions have also been held with parents.</li><li>• At the moment YA has delivered nine of the free sessions.</li><li>• YA explained that the paid workshops aren't as popular as the free workshops. Partly due to the current time of year as it is nearing the end of the financial year. As of next Sept she wonders whether the network meetings could just be an hour long and used as a taster session for the paid courses in order to encourage bookings.</li><li>• AR - Could you run a free course more than once? YA is</li></ul>	

	<p>finding that that schools are sending different members of staff, so yes possibly. IU what have the responses been from participants on the course? YA- really positive. LN quoted some of the participant's positive comments from the school website to the committee. YA - We are not just delivering lessons we are helping people develop their use of the ipad.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E Safety sessions are taking place at school every term for the pupils. The school also monitors there usage and how long they have been logged on for when using the ICT equipment. IU – Are we documenting our progress? – YA Yes it looks at across the curriculum. Good also because the children can email the teacher. It helps you to group children. Articulating the children.</li> <li>• IU asked if there was anything YA would like in regards to ICT? She feels it would be beneficial if they could have more ipads for the children. It was agreed that the committee need to think about this request.</li> </ul>	ALL
5	<p><b><u>Ofsted - CL</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the committee are attending 'New Ofsted Framework' training for governors after this meeting. The attendees are IU, AR, HM and AF.</li> <li>• CL – Explained to the committee what the process and potential stages will be when the school receives its next HMI visit.</li> <li>• Most schools will get a one day visit every three years.</li> <li>• The message is that school leaders should not prepare.</li> <li>• HMI will start with our good rating which the school received on its last visit.</li> <li>• They will be looking that our school has a strong culture of safeguarding.</li> <li>• The message is that we are proactive we take control. They will be looking for evidence of this and how this happens in our school, does that happen in real life do we all wear our ID badges for example.</li> <li>• They will be cross referencing and looking at the impact on the childrens learning.</li> <li>• The school website is were HMI will look first as soon as they decide they are going to visit our school.</li> <li>• LN has transformed the school website and all the committee agreed that he had done an excellent job.</li> <li>• They will head of to our phonics section as one of their priorities because the results dipped last year.</li> <li>• LN wants the next set of data on there as shown in the phonics presentation.</li> <li>• LN has created an Ofsted secure section which will have all the documents in their that they could need or ask for such as all of the schools key policies.</li> <li>• School improvement – IU asked 'are we any further in finding a school improvement officer for the school?' CL purchased a consultant to do a SIP type visit.</li> <li>• What sort of feedback do we get from the LEA rag rated reported red, green or yellow. IU would like to organise a meeting around this.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be a big focus on Early Years when they visit so in anticipation of this the school is having an early years audit next week.</li> <li>• CL doing peer to peer support. Were will it be documented? IU would like to see it go on the agenda for the next curriculum meeting. To go on the governor secure zone.</li> </ul>	CL, LN & IU
6	<p><b><u>Phonics Update – Donna Briggs</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phonics taught right through from nursery to Year 2.</li> <li>• Progressive subject.</li> <li>• Taught in four parts.</li> <li>• Lessons taught daily.</li> <li>• End of year expectations, six phases from nursery to Year 2.</li> <li>• The lessons are broken into four parts. Revisit and review, teach, practise and apply.</li> <li>• The phonics screening test happens at the end of Year 1 all children have to take it unless there are exceptional circumstances to exempt them. The first twenty are phases two and three and twenty to forty is phase four and phase five.</li> <li>• Those children that didn't pass will have to retake in Year 2. In 2017 they will have to retake it in Year 3.</li> <li>• 2015 results was not the schools best year. Retested children in Dec 15 and results were much better. Huge improvement.</li> <li>• Phonics screening check booklet has been given out.</li> <li>• Fast track phonics in place in Year 2. LK and DB have been on more phonics training in Oct 2015. If the pupils continue to progress like they have done the results should be really good. DB's target is about an 80% pass rate.</li> <li>• The committee asked what the alien was that kept reappearing in the phonics booklet. DB - The alien indicates that the word is not a real word.</li> <li>• AR - Phonics 2016 – How are we making changes? This year all the children have been taught phase five as well as moving to phase6 and streaming has gone. Ensuring good practice by observing lessons making sure everyone is following the internal consistencies, use of good spoken English, correct elements of four part lesson, fast track phonics. CL has also bought all teaching staff in the foundation stage and KS1 new decidable guided reading books and more training. An external examiner from LCC came in Jan 16 to observe phonics lessons the teachers were given feedback plus termly assessments for pupils are taking place.</li> <li>• For the future DB would like to focus on the</li> </ul>	

	differentiation in the lesson.	
7	<p><b><u>Inspire Maths – Liam Noon</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LN explained to the committee the Singapore style approach to teaching maths which the school is currently adopting through the guidance of LN and JM. LN explained that the reason why we have gone for this style of teaching is that we are happy with the maths results and the coverage that teachers were doing was good but LN and JM felt that pupils that needed more depth to their work. This style of teaching is quite challenging and will take some time to get embedded.</li> <li>• LN and JM to go on more training and teaching staff are to have a staff meeting and training day with a consultant.</li> <li>• For the higher achieving children it gives them lots of extensions, similar to ‘talk for writing’ scheme, the programme also allows children of mixed ability to work together.</li> <li>• LN and JM went to visit a school in Bury and are confident it will improve the pupils maths skills.</li> <li>• LN and JM have attended their third training session and have two more to attend.</li> <li>• Teachers to start the programme officially in their classrooms in Sept 16 with a settling in period into the programme beginning in the Summer Term. LN - we want teachers to get a feel of the programme, look at what has worked well and what hasn’t then looking at the transition units and then onto the books.</li> <li>• Information on this Singapore style approach currently on the website about it in the maths section.</li> <li>• Pupils in Year 2 currently working and testing it this style with JM.</li> <li>• The programme is to change teachers mindsets, deepening the understanding for the pupils.</li> <li>• The programme has been purchased and the books are still in their boxes until LN and JM launch the programme officially.</li> <li>• LN will be going into Year 5 to help implement the programme.</li> </ul>	LN
8	<p><b><u>New Assessment Framework</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CL the end of year assessments are consistently getting updated, bringing them forward taking them back etc still not clear.</li> <li>• The Year 6 staff have been trialling the sample materials with the Year 6 pupils.</li> <li>• The school has purchased a software programme called ‘Target Tracker’.</li> <li>• Revisit on next meeting.</li> <li>• Scheduled for next meeting, IU would like to have an intermediate meeting.</li> </ul>	CL & IU
9	<p><b><u>SLE Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three teachers at St Thomas’ are currently SLEs JM, YA and LB.</li> <li>• JM has been on first assignment to a nursery school.</li> <li>• JM will be leading a maths network meeting where she will be leading across our SIG group.</li> <li>• LB is SLE for assessment.</li> <li>• St Matthews CEP School have requested YA.</li> <li>• Unofficial request for Debra Welsby.</li> <li>• Developing leaders advert coming out shortly for some more.</li> </ul>	

**Talk For Writing – Presentation - Carley Dootson**

- CD is leading on a programme called for ‘Talk For Writing’ which is an engaging way of teaching the English curriculum by Pie Corbett.
- Powerful way to teach English emersion of children in writing.
- An initial study in a similar primary school to ours found just two percent of the reception class could retell a story. By the end of just one year seventy six percent could retell the story. The results for other schools using the scheme have also been outstanding.
- CD & DS have had leadership level training about how to implement the programme across the school and professionally develop the teachers.
- One hour of training with every classteacher as well as a staff training session.
- Teachers are using the strategies, there has been improved teaching and the quality of the English lessons has also increased. The programme has given lessons more structure and non English specialists feel more confident. More quality writing and displays.
- CD and LM have visited the best school for ‘talk for writing’ in Birmingham who have used the programme for five years, links have been embedded with this school as well as other contacts.
- Where to next – more teachers from St Thomas’ to visit Birmingham school for a professional development opportunity.
- Innovation (guiding them through the writing process) and invention ( I have taught you now I would like you to go and research and apply completely independently), some fine tuning. Staff training will become a bit more focused.
- Handwriting books with hand writing lines by the time in Year 5 and Year 6 there handwriting is perfect.
- More flip charts needed so teachers can model write, moving away from using screens all the time.
- The staff feedback has been really positive all the way through the school. Everyone accessing the curriculum through this way of teaching. Children’s feedback has also been really positive.
- All the committee were given a sample of a pupils work to see how big of an impact that ‘Talk for Writing’ is having. Some of the vocabulary is fantastic.
- Video presentation shown to Committee.
- AR - What segments of writing have improved? – CD the children’s feature of genres. Development of punctuation and vocabulary through for example story maps.
- Delivered from Early Years right through to Year 6, the programme actually exists up to A level.
- CD working towards being accredited which will take about two years.
- IU - How do you keep a global link? – CD emails to Pie Corbett pointed out a couple schools who have really got them embedded. Interestingly they aren’t aswell ahead with the ipads. IU could we create a platform? DS We have hosted our training for our staff we have teachers from other schools

	<p>coming in to see how we have been teaching it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IU – Thank you very much for bringing back the resources to our school.</li></ul>	
11	<p><b><u>A.O.B</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No.</li></ul>	