



TELFORD JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November 2019

BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE, BE READY.

Invitation to Year 2 Parents/Carers

Several Year 2 parents have asked about the possibility of visiting the school prior to making an application for a place for their child to join Telford Junior School in September 2020.

To give Year 2 parents/carers an opportunity to see the school in action, we will hold an **Open Morning** on **Friday 22 November**.

Y2 parents/carers can join us either at **9.30 am** or **11.00 am**. Please make your way to the main entrance on Telford Avenue.

If, as a Y2 parent/carers, you would like to visit at either of these times, please email the school office, stating your preferred time, so that we can plan tours of the school.

Office email address: **admin2315@welearn365.com**

Harvest Celebration

To celebrate harvest, the Reverend William Smith, of St. Mary Magdalene Church, delivered a harvest assembly to the children on Thursday 17 October. We would like to thank families for the produce the children brought into school to celebrate harvest. Your kind donations have been delivered to the Warwick District Foodbank and the Salvation Army Way Ahead project.

Bonfire Lunch

The 'Bonfire Lunch' served by Educaterers last week was well received. The children enjoyed the meal and appreciated the decorative touches provided by the kitchen staff, including their impressive Guy Fawkes.

Sportshall Athletics

Congratulations to the sportshall athletics team which won the next round of the inter-school competiton, hosted by Myton School, this week. The team will now progress to the finals.



Open Afternoon

It was good to see so many parents/carers in school during our open afternoon, on the Thursday before half-term. The children enjoyed sharing the work they have recorded in their exercise books. For those parents/carers who were unable to attend, there will be an opportunity to look at your children's books on the Parents' Appointment Evenings, on Wednesday 13 November and Thursday 14 November.

School Development

Following our Ofsted inspection outcome this Summer, the school is receiving support from Warwickshire Local Authority. The support comes through Warwickshire's 'Task Group Model for Support and Challenge'.

The Task Group, chaired by an education consultant appointed by the Local Authority, met on the Friday before half-term. The purpose of the Task Group is to:

1. Provide challenge and support in the context of the current Ofsted framework.
2. Review actions taken by the school.
3. Review the impact of external support, provided by the Local Authority appointed Learning Improvement Officer.
4. Agree 'next steps' and the focus for the next Task Group meeting.

While it had only been 35 school days since the Ofsted report was published, the Chair of the Task Group was able to report that:

"Leaders have responded positively to the school's inspection report. They have constructed a thorough school development plan, which details how staff and leaders propose to address the areas identified by Ofsted as requiring improvement."

The Task Group is focused on:

1. Quality of Education
 - Improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment, so that all pupils make at least good progress.
2. Leadership and Management
 - Improving and strengthening the effectiveness of leadership and management.
 - Implementing rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems.
 - Developing an effective partnership with parents/carers.
 - Governors holding leaders to account.

School leaders and governors shared the work undertaken in the first half-term of the school year:

Actions Taken	Early Impact
Teaching and Learning	
Reducing the number of exercise books used and ensuring work is recorded chronologically.	<p>Helps children's independence with their learning.</p> <p>Makes monitoring of pupils' progress from one activity to another easier to follow and understand.</p> <p>Allows for monitoring of lessons' sequencing.</p>
Reduction in the use of worksheets, while recognising that activity sheets may add clarity to the purpose of the activity and help scaffold work for children needing that support.	<p>Promotes pupils' independence with their learning.</p> <p>Encourages children to produce more extensive pieces of writing.</p>
<p>Maths professional development on our September 2019 teacher training day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refining the teachers' understanding of the rich range of resources and strategies available for teaching problem solving and reasoning. - Highlighting the importance of using the correct Mathematical vocabulary and encouraging children to explain their thinking in sentences. - Developing a shared understanding of what is understood by Mathematical reasoning. 	Supports the effective and consistent teaching of Mathematical problem solving and reasoning in all year groups.
The Feedback for Learning Policy has been updated and shared with staff.	Ensures consistency around feedback to pupils.
<p>Staff professional development around pupil learning intentions and 'steps to success':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring clarity around the purpose of the lesson (what the teacher wants the children to learn). - Looking at useful sentence stems to help formulate purposeful learning intentions. - Making sure the 'steps to success' relate closely to the learning intention; giving children a clear 	<p>The importance of getting this right has been highlighted during our classroom visits with the Learning Improvement Officer.</p> <p>During our last learning walk it was evident that teachers have mastered this process. It is important that this is sustained and consistent going forward and will be an on-going focus of our classroom monitoring visits.</p>

<p>idea of what they have to demonstrate in order to meet the learning intention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Success criteria build in challenge for all pupils. 	
<p>Curriculum Development</p> <p><i>While the Ofsted report said that the school's curriculum was a strength, describing it as "rich, broad and balanced", we are mindful that the new Ofsted framework focuses on each school's curriculum provision and we will be making this a key area of our development plan.</i></p>	
<p>Subject leader professional development around sharing a model for developing an overview of each subject area.</p>	<p>This overview will provide the basis for each subject leader to formulate a coherent action plan to develop their subject area.</p>
<p>Professional development activity undertaken during our November 2019 teacher training day, on the kinds of questions subject leaders should be asking in relation to their subject area</p> <p><i>(Subject leader guidance materials provided by Local Authority Governor Training Service and Maths Consultant).</i></p>	<p>Supporting subject leaders in collating the monitoring evidence they need for their subject area.</p> <p>Supporting subject leaders in formulating their subject action plan.</p>
<p>Leadership (including Governance)</p>	
<p>School leaders and governors have drawn up a school development plan following the Ofsted inspection report.</p> <p>This plan was approved by the Board of Governors on 17/9/19 and shared with the Task Group on 25/10/19.</p>	<p>The Chair of the Task Group believes that, "Leaders have responded positively to the school's inspection report. They have constructed a thorough school development plan, which details how staff and leaders propose to address the areas identified by Ofsted as requiring improvement."</p>
<p>School Evaluation Reports drawn up by the head teacher over the Summer were shared with governors at the Board of Governors' meeting on 17/9/19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcomes Report - Safeguarding Report - Behaviour Report - Attendance Report - Pupil Premium Strategy - Sports' Premium Report 	<p>Governors provided with a good overview of the work undertaken by the school over the last 12 months.</p> <p>Governors have a good understanding of the school's outcomes.</p> <p>Governors are better placed to explain and review school performance with external parties.</p> <p>Governors are better placed to formulate their own evaluations and to ask insightful questions of school leaders.</p>

School analysis of pupils working at Greater Depth across all year groups.	Heightened awareness of the need to increase the number of pupils who achieve Greater Depth or a Higher Scales Score in their end of Key Stage 2 tests and assessments.
Scrutiny of Maths books by school leaders	Fewer worksheets evident. Evidence of problem solving and reasoning activities being undertaken regularly in each year group. Recording of these activities is more explicit.
Scrutiny of English books by school leaders	Evidence of good productivity and high standards of presentation in books. GPS is being taught at the correct standard in all year groups, with errors being identified by teachers. Both Maths and English book trawls highlighted the need to develop the consistent application of the feedback policy and time being given for children to correct errors (with teachers checking that this has been done).
Learning Improvement Officer visits	Support for HT and Leadership Team around monitoring the quality of teaching and learning. Guidance on strategies for making monitoring schedule more role specific, including the pupil voice and developing the role of governors.
Parent/Carer Partnership	
Post Ofsted meetings with parents/carers, led by head teacher and supported by staff and governors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15/9/19 for Year 3 parents/carers 16/9/19 for Year 4 parents/carers 17/9/19 for years 5 and 6 parents/carers 	Helping parents/carers to have a better understanding of the process the school is moving through and the involvement of the Local Authority and external consultants.
Introduction to year group meetings held on 19/9/19.	These meetings were successful last year and seem to have been valued again this year.
24/10/19 Open afternoon	Feedback to staff during the afternoon on the value of this opportunity was positive.
Reinstatement of individual parent/carers appointments in the Autumn Term, as well as the introduction to year group meetings.	Recognising that after the first half-term, parents/carers value the opportunity to discuss their child's progress early in the school year.

Looking Ahead

Parents' Forum – 7.00 pm on Monday 20 January 2020

During the post Ofsted meetings last half-term, we agreed that there would be an opportunity to follow up the points raised and to hear about the progress the school is making with its Development Plan, through the re-introduction of the Parents' Forum. The first of these meetings is scheduled for 7.00 pm on Monday 20 January 2020.

Parents' Evening Appointments – Wednesday 5 February and Thursday 6 February 2020

Following on from the November 2019 Parents' Evening Appointments, there will be a further set of appointments offered in the Spring Term, on the evenings of Wednesday 5 February and Thursday 6 February 2020.

Open Afternoon – 2.30 -3.20 pm on Thursday 13 February 2020

There will be a further Open Afternoon, planned for 2.30 pm on Thursday 13 February 2020. During this session you are welcome to visit your child's classroom and share their work. It is a drop-in session, with parents/carers free to arrive when you are able to do so. Similarly, children can be taken home once you have shared their work.

Richard Siviter, Head Teacher

Autumn Term Dates

Wednesday 13 November	4 – 6.30 pm Parents' Evening (individual parent/carers appointments)
Thursday 14 November	5 – 7.30 pm Parents' Evening (individual parent/carers appointments)
Saturday 16 November	Cross-Country Event at Priorsfield School
Tuesday 19 November	Year 5 visit to Selly Manor
Saturday 30 November	Cross-Country Event at Priory Park
Monday 9 December	10 am Year 3 Christmas Songs
Tuesday 10 December	10 am Year 4 Christmas Songs
Wednesday 11 December	11 am Years 5 and 6 Christmas Songs
Thursday 12 December	SCHOOL CLOSED – GENERAL ELECTION <i>School is a designated Polling Station</i>
Friday 13 December	Parents' Association Christmas Raffle
Tuesday 17 December	7 pm Year 3 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 18 December	7 pm Year 3 Christmas Performance

Thursday 19 December	School Christmas Lunch 5.30 – 6.30 pm - Y3/4 'Crafty Christmas Party' 7 – 8.30 pm - Y5/6 Christmas Discos
Friday 20 December	3.20 pm End of Autumn Term
DATES FOR 2020	
Monday 6 January	Training Day (school closed)
Tuesday 7 January	Start of the Spring Term
Tuesday 14 January	7 pm Parents' Association Meeting
Monday 20 January	Parents' Forum
Tuesday 21 January	6 pm Board of Governors' Meeting
Friday 7 February	Parents' Association Bingo Night
Thursday 13 February	2.30 pm Open Afternoon (for current parents/carers)
17 February – 21 February	Half-Term Holiday
Friday 13 March	Parents' Association Quiz Evening
Tuesday 24 March	6 pm Board of Governors' Meeting
Friday 3 April	3.20 pm End of Spring Term
Monday 20 April	Start of Summer Term
Thursday 23 April	Y4 Residential Visit
Friday 24 April	Y4 Residential Visit
Thursday 7 May	Police & Crime Commissioner Election - school used as a Polling Station - school closed
Friday 8 May	Bank Holiday – school closed
11 May – 14 May	Y6 End of Key Stage Tests
Tuesday 12 May	6 pm Board of Governors' Meeting

Saturday 16 May	12 – 2.30 pm School Fair
25 May – 29 May	Half-Term Holiday
Tuesday 7 July	6 pm Board of Governors' Meeting
Friday 17 July	3.20 End of Summer Term