

INTRODUCTION

This is the first of what I hope will be an annual publication - a summary of our achievements during the past year. You will see that I have covered the following elements of our work at Queens Park Lower School:

- Key priorities this year
- Attainment/Achievement
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Parental Engagement
- Celebrations
- Key priorities for next year

I hope you will find it helpful in celebrating with us what we are doing well and helping us to improve year on year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further details on any items included in this report. There is a tear off slip at the end.

Very best wishes for a wonderful summer holiday.

Anne McCormick
Head Teacher

EVALUATION OF OUR KEY PRIORITIES FOR THIS YEAR 2009-10

Our priorities for this year were:

- ***Progress the rigorous setting of targets*** - teachers have been working hard to set targets for the children and we are really pleased to see that the targets have been met this year (*in points score*) (except for Year 2 Writing and Year 4 Maths) - see chart below and 'Attainment/Achievement' pages.

	Year 2 Target	Year 2 result
Reading	12.8	13.0
Writing	12.1	11.4
Maths	12.9	13.0
	Year 4 target	Year 4 result
Reading	18.2	18.9
Writing	16.4	16.7
Maths	18.4	17.9

- ***Assessing Pupil Progress (APP)*** - this is a process whereby the teachers assess the children. We are very pleased to have received the following comments from 'external moderators' (colleagues from other schools who 'check' how well we are doing) - *"Excellent use of APP records and teacher knowledge of pupils", "A lovely friendly school who work hard to a high standard to maintain records and levels of attainment."*
- ***Engage parents in 1:1 conversations about standards*** - we hope that you have found meeting with the teachers helpful. As you know we have 'standards' meetings on Wednesday afternoons and these will identify children who we are concerned about or those children we want to challenge to achieve more. On some occasions the teachers will have met with parents to discuss this further.
- ***Explore a 'pastoral mentoring system' for all children (and adults?)*** - we have established a 'mentoring system' for all children (but not for the adults). All the children have an 'adult mentor' who has met with them twice this year. We hope in future that this meeting will happen 6 times each year - twice each term. It is early days - but we think the children enjoy this attention. It is linked to our World Families initiative.
- ***Develop the World Families further with parents linked to the Schools Council*** - we continue to develop the World Families and the children who are chosen to be the 'Head of the Family' meet regularly with me. They also meet with the Schools Council on a regular basis. We have not as yet, had opportunity to link parents into the World Families.
- ***Achieve the Inclusion Mark*** - we will be assessed for this in September.

ATTAINMENT/ACHIEVEMENT

Each year we have to assess the children at the end of their Reception Year (age 5), at the end of Year 2 (aged 6/7) and Year 4 (aged 8/9). The three charts below show the standard reached by these three year groups (Attainment).

Reception - average point scores for all the children in year R across all the areas of the Foundation Stage.

2008	2009	2010	National Expectations
71	82	84	85

You will see that we have improved considerably since 2008. We are now very close to the National Expectation from children aged 5. Our Early Years is improving all of the time thanks to the dedication of the staff, the commitment from parents and the extra support we are able to secure from our Family Support Worker and the Neighbourhood Centre.

Year 2 - average points scores for all the children in Year 2.

Subject	2008	2009	2010	National Expectation
Reading	12.6	12.6	12.5	15.7
Writing	10.7	10.2	11.0	14.3
Maths	12.1	12.2	13.0	15.7

You will see that our results continue to improve over the three years (Reading has gone down by 0.1 point). We are very pleased with the progress in Writing. We are still below National Expectations as most of our children are learning in their 'second' language - English. However we are getting closer each year.

Year 4 - average points scores for all children in Year 4

Subject	2008	2009	2010	National Expectation
Reading	19.1	17.9	18.7	21
Writing	17.3	15.5	16.4	21
Maths	17.9	17.5	17.6	21

You will see that in all 3 subjects the results have improved. Again we are very pleased with the result in writing as this can be very hard. We still remain below the National Expectation for the reasons previously stated.

ACHIEVEMENT (i.e. the progress that the children make)

In terms of achievement we expect the children to make at least **8 points** of progress between Year R and Year 2 and **6 points** of progress between Year 2 and Year 4. Below you will see the achievement for Reading, Writing and Maths.

Year 2 (expectation = 8 points)

Subject	2008	2009	2010
Reading	n/a	8.8	9.3
Writing	n/a	6.5	7.2
Maths	n/a	7.7	9.7

You will see that we still need to work on getting 'Writing' achievement up. Next year we will be focussing on Handwriting as this can help the children achieve the higher levels.

Year 4 (expectation = 6 points)

Subject	2008	2009	2010
Reading	5.7	3.9	6.6
Writing	6.1	3.2	6.3
Maths	5.8	4.6	5.3

You will see that we have made the best progress in Reading and Writing, but although better than last year Maths still needs to improve to above 6.0. We will be asking for your help with this to ensure that the children focus on their home activities in Maths as this will definitely help.

We continue to set challenging targets to ensure that the children really learn well to achieve their potential. It is important that we have parental support in helping your child to learn. Thank you for the support you have given this year - you can see that our standards in both Attainment and Achievement are rising - we must ensure we keep this up.

ATTENDANCE

This year our target for the children's attendance was 94%. The result for this year is 93.19% - a little below the target. However this is still the best result we have had over recent years.

	2008-9	2009-10
Overall	93.15%	93.32%

Our target for next year will remain at 94% and I hope that we might achieve it.

One of the ways in which we can improve on our attendance is to ensure that those children who have a 'persistent absence' (PA) are as few as possible. Our PA record has improved considerably over previous years, but we still need to improve further. The % below shows good improvement as we now only have 2.8% of our children 'persistently absent'. The aim however must be 0%!

	2007-8	2008-9	2009-10
PA	10.8%	5.0%	2.8%

To help us to improve on PA results, any families who fall below the school target of 94% will be asked to come in to school to discuss why this is. **Any child who does not maintain attendance of at least 94% will not be permitted any time off school so all requests for 'holiday' leave will be denied.** If your child has an attendance record of above 94% then all requests will be considered. However, I must ask that families try to avoid any extended trips wherever possible as it really does impact on your child's learning.

BEHAVIOUR

I am really pleased to report that Behaviour at school is excellent. Over the past term we have had very few incidents of poor behaviour and over the year 0 (zero) incidents of bullying and 0 (zero) incidents of racial incidents. This is an 'outstanding' result.

We believe this is partially due to our rigorous Behaviour Management procedures at school where everyone (staff and children) know what is expected. They understand the system of rewards (Golden Minutes, World Family points) and the sanctions (4W sheets, meeting with the Children's panel).

The success of the World Families - all children and staff in one of four World Families - (Africa, America, Asia and Australia) - has really helped the children to reflect on their behaviour as they do not want to let their World Family down. They want to earn as many Golden Minutes/Points as they can so as to win the World Cup. Currently it looks as if Africa will win this year!!

In the annual Parents Questionnaire, 8% of parents expressed concern about bullying and we continue to make sure that the children understand what bullying is and how seriously we take any concerns. As you can see from the record of incidents (zero) we have been able to ensure that bullying happens very rarely. Obviously there may be times when a child feels they are being bullied and we always take this very seriously. We always investigate and if bullying were found we keep a record. In all cases this year we have been able to ensure that bullying was not evident and that children who have fallen out with their friends soon 'make up' or make new friends.

Having said all of this however, if you feel that at any time your child is being bullied do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, the team leader or any of the senior team.

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

I am really pleased to see that more and more families are coming to school to share with the children their 'learning'; the 'Shows'; and even some of the 'external' events we have taken part in.

Each term we have an 'Independent Learning Day' and I am pleased to report that we achieve about 98% on the day - with nearly all families meeting with class teachers (even if it has to be at another time). Next year we hope that we will achieve 100% at the ILD every term.

Our Family Learning Trips remain very popular and we are always pleased to see how many mums and dads join their children for this important learning trip. Often 75% of families attend - which is really good. Family Learning Afternoons are also very popular and we hope more and more parents will attend next year.

This year we have also had a '*bring your dad to school*' event - and it was a real pleasure to see so many 'dads/uncles/granddads' in school sharing stories with their children. We hope to repeat this every year.

Also new this year, has been our 'transition' projects for families in Nursery moving to Reception and for those in Reception moving to Year 1. These have been especially successful and we will be running them again.

Our Family Support Worker has held weekly coffee mornings and she has been very successful in working with families in all sorts of circumstances. If you would like her help please contact her at school or come along to the Coffee Morning each Tuesday.

We have also had a significant number of parents acting as volunteers in school - we are always very grateful for your help. This can be in the classroom, going on trips, helping with activities at home. **Thank You.**

KEY CELEBRATIONS THIS YEAR

This year I am really pleased to announce that we have achieved the following:

The English Speaking Union - a group of Year 4 children are learning how to 'speak in public'. This will continue next year with an annual competition for the 'Joan Reeves Memorial Cup'.

Link with China - we are now partnered with Yong'An Street Primary School in Zhengzhou, China.

Corn Exchange - we have taken part in a number of events at the Corn Exchange this year, not least of which was to come third in the Bedford Festival of Speech and Drama in the singing category.

Voces8 at Bedford School - we won the 'T M Lewin Singing Award' cup at this event. We were in competition with 11 other schools (mostly from the Harpur Trust) and we were delighted to have won!

Investor in People Award - this recognises how we support and develop all the staff who work at the school.

ECO Status and Queens Park in Bloom - at the time of writing this report we are still waiting to hear if we have achieved the ECO Schools Green Flag and we are entered into a number of categories in the Anglia in Bloom competition.

Inter-Schools Cricket competition - this year we won the West Bedford Cluster cricket match for lower school children.

Bedford Study Support Centre - Several children received awards which were presented to them at the University of Bedfordshire for their work and achievements attained through this study centre.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2010-11

Our priorities for next year are:

- **To raise expectations and achievement of the 'more confident' children so that they achieve higher results** - *we know that a significant number of our children are able to achieve above the National Expectation and we want to ensure this happens.*
- **To promote the development of handwriting** - *this will ensure that children achieve the highest levels in 'writing' assessment.*
- **To develop a management system for resources** - *we have lots of excellent resources at school and in this hard economic time we want to make sure we make the best use of them.*
- **To develop Religious Education (RE) within the School** - *this is an important part of the curriculum that we need to review and develop.*
- **To develop the use of the outdoor learning areas** - *we know that children really enjoy learning outside, so we want to offer more opportunities for this on both of our school sites.*
- **To promote parental involvement in general within the School** - *we want to build on the excellent progress we have made by encouraging more and more families to work with us.*
- **To review the role, involvement and membership of the Governing Body** - *we need to ensure we have the best governors working with us for the good of the school.*
- **To develop a partnership with Milton Keynes Schools** - *we continue to work with other schools so that we can reflect on our own practice and remain as an 'outstanding' school.*

I hope you have found this summary of our progress this year helpful. If you have any comments you would like to share please complete the slip below and return it to school. May I thank you all for a very successful year - your children are a delight and we are absolutely proud of them. Thank you for entrusting them to us for their vital years of learning. We look forward to the next year ahead and wish you a very restful and enjoyable summer break.

Anne McCormick
Head Teacher



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Name

Comment :