



Inspire Federation Newsletter

Term 1 2019

The Inspire Federation will be one of opportunity for all within an environment of inclusiveness, respect and compassion.

Pupils, parents, staff and governors will be supported in developing and nurturing new skills that enable individuals to grow. Collaboration will empower us to offer the very best experiences that allow all those within it to thrive and fulfil aspirations. Through strong partnerships, we will embrace new ideas together, finding innovative ways to create an environment that endorses the very best learning so we all reach our full potential.

Welcome back to you all, term 1 is now well under way and I have lots to report. There are many events going on over the next two terms which you will need to be aware of so attached to this newsletter is a calendar overview of the year which should you should keep and refer to throughout the year. Before you know it, Christmas will be upon us so please get the dates in your diaries early.

Staff Collaboration

We started Term 1 off with a joint inset day, where all staff across the federation came together to look at our new well-being and culture charter. I want all staff, no matter what their position within the federation to share our values and to be the best they can be; therefore the document was created in order to share expectations. This can be viewed on the school websites: sealprimary.com and four-elms.kent.sch.uk.

In the afternoon, teaching staff met to learn about their new project 'reflective journals'. Mrs Jones and Mr Carter have been researching this May and have trialled methods of reflection in their classes.

Every child will be given a reflective journal (Year R and 1 will be given a class journal) and will be taught to mind map and reflect on learning and how to improve. This will allow children to review their work, see the progress they make and revisit prior learning when needed. Teachers will be trialling this in Term 1 with their classes, following that, they will be working together to develop this further and improve practice.

The teaching staff continue their work on developing the 'Know, Show, Grow' progression of skills and this term's staff development will be focusing on growing learning. If you would like any more information on this, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Miss Fermor.

The new position of Administration Manager for the Inspire Federation was created and I am delighted to say that Mrs Wade (who was Office Manager at Four Elms) has deservedly taken on the role. She will be looking at systems and processes across the federation, ensuring consistency across the two schools.

School Improvement

Middle leaders from both Seal and Four Elms will be working together to write the School Improvement plan and plan collaborative learning for staff across the federation. We have moved to the model of having subject leaders across the federation which will both develop leadership and support the fact that Four Elms is a smaller school and therefore have fewer staff to lead and develop subjects.

The subject leaders for the federation are: English and Read, Write Inc – Mrs Marsh, Mrs Clark and Miss Coleman, Maths – Mrs Kyte and Mr Cook, Rights Respecting – Miss Fermor and Mrs Smith, IT – Mrs Ryan and Miss White, Sports – Coach James and Mr Stevens, RE – Mr Carter, Music – Mrs Hunt, Miss Cuss and Miss Martin, MFL – Mr Carter and Mrs Millet. Miss Stuart has taken on the new role of leader of teaching and learning, this role will enable new members of staff to quickly adapt to the Federation’s teaching and learning policy.

The Maths Leaders continue to work on a national project across the two schools and are leading on the development of the Federation’s calculation policy. This document will inform of how to teach each of the four calculations at different stages of learning and development. The addition section is now complete and will be available to view shortly.

The priorities for school improvement this year across the Federation are:

- Reading – fluency and comprehension for lower attainers
- Introduction of cultural capital – the experience of culture for all children to enrich their knowledge
- Pupil reflection
- Development of Music and Modern foreign languages

The school Improvement plan will be presented to governors at the Full Governing Body meeting in October and then presented to the Rights Respecting Ambassadors for their input. The children will take part in the monitoring of the School Improvement Plan and will be feeding back to governors.

Pupil Collaboration

Last year, both schools held very successful Key Stage 2 carol concerts. This year, we will be running a joint service at Sevenoaks School. Both schools will learn the songs and then come together for a day’s rehearsal – the day of the concert. This will be led by Mrs Hunt who is leading music across the federation.

There are collaborative residential trips throughout the year. Year 3 will be having a sleepover at each school. After a successful joint trip last year, Year 5 will once again be visiting Carrotty Woods together. In June, Year 6 will be visiting the Isle of Wight together. Details of these trips will be sent home soon.

Inspire Federation Governing Body

The Governing Body of the Inspire Federation has now been running for a year. At the end of the summer term, the Chair of Governors led a review into the effectiveness of the first year. While it has been a struggle in the absence of a Clerk, we have managed to monitor school improvement and discuss and challenge strategic decisions.

Paul Thompson, our Chair of Governors will be standing down as from the 15th October, the Governing Body will be electing a new Chair at their next meeting. I will give you more information regarding that following the meeting. Charlotte McIntyre will continue in her role as Vice Chair. I would like to say a personal thank you to Paul for the hard work and dedication he has shown to the Federation; he has been an integral part in our success. Paul plans to spend his retirement enjoying time with his wife Sally and no doubt on the golf course!

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding the Inspire Federation, please complete the comments slip below and return to the school office.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Mitchell

Comments slip

Name:

Date: