

A message from the headteacher, Ms McKay, and our school governors Feb 2017

This is our second annual governors' information update to keep parents and carers informed of our plans for, and progress in, school development at Moor Allerton.

How we have done on our priorities since last year?



As you know, like all schools last year, we had a major challenge in delivering the new curriculum to key stage 1&2 with its higher expectations and new assessment system. Our main focus was on **writing** where our results had been below national average in SATs assessments for the last few years. We worked with Beechwood Primary, an outstanding school, who had already had success in writing. With their help, Moor Allerton's English team totally changed our approach to teaching writing and grammar. The result of this was the quality of writing rose rapidly across school. Our teachers taught the children more complex things than before in each year group and expected the children to achieve higher standards. Our children rose to the challenge and produced amazing writing with the support of their teachers, and also improved on their independent writing assessments. Our writing results in summer 2016 are **matching and exceeding national average attainment**.



Here is the improvement over time:

Key stage 1 Writing (year 2)				Key Stage 2 Writing (year 6)			
	2014 Expected level and above (2b+)	2015 Expected level and above (2b+)	2016 New harder Expected Standard and above		2014 Expected level and above (4+)	2015 Expected level and above (4+)	2016 New harder Expected Standard and above
MAH school	57	60	67	MAH school	72	56	78
National	70	72	66	National	85	87	74

What else are we doing well?

- Our School Improvement Advisers have noted the **increasingly high standard of teaching** they have seen when observing in school.
- Our Early Years Foundation stage results for Good Levels of Development **continue to improve** and close on national averages. (in 2016: MAH 65% national 69%)
- Our early reading teaching is working exceptionally well, we have been **above national average** scores in our year 1 phonic screening test for 3 years running (in 2016: MAH 88%, national 81%)
- **Maths progress** across school is good.
- We gained the **Silver Award** in **Primary Science Quality mark** and the **Bronze School Games Award** last summer.
- Our new leadership teams are making **huge improvements** in school organisation and in subject leadership.
- Our new topics have been redesigned **to improve skills** across school in all the subjects of the new curriculum and give children **exciting, memorable experiences**.
- In our independent audit of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural provision, we were judged **good with outstanding features**.
- The number of **behaviour incidents have reduced** dramatically over the last 2 years.
- We have introduced **more opportunities for pupils** to take more responsibility and have a voice in decision making through our new school council arrangements, sports leaders and upper school house system.
- We have **improved facilities in the playground** with the help of lottery and PTA funding.



Year 6 SAT Results 2016 – How do we compare with other schools?

	Percentage achieving expected standard			Progress scores				15% just missed the expected standard in reading by a few points. Sadly, this means we are classed as a 'coasting school' Unfortunately, while writing improved dramatically and good progress was made in maths, we did not get enough of our pupils in year 6 to reach the new higher reading standards. You may have seen in the news how test scores in key stage 2 reading dropped across the country. We had nine of the 59 children who sat the tests (15%) who missed reaching the reading expected standard by 3 points or less. This drop in reading standard is the area which let us down this year. The combination of this, together with low results in previous years, has resulted in us falling in to the new ' Coasting School ' category. This means that, although we were above the Department for Education's minimum acceptable (floor) standards, we have not yet reached the expected levels of progress in all subjects across time. We know we have to do better- particularly in reading progress.
	MAH Year 6	Leeds average	National average	MAH Year 6	National average	Minimum progress for below floor judgement	Minimum progress for new 'coasting' judgement	
Reading (R)	53	60	66	-3.4	0	-5	-2.5	
Writing (W)	78	67	74	-0.8	0	-7	-3.5	
Maths (M)	68	65	70	+0.1	0	-5	-2.5	
Combined RWM	44	47	53					

What we are doing about it:

Our intention is to tackle the reading systematically as we did with children's writing last year. We are already working with the experts in the city- both Local Authority Advisers and other schools- to improve our approach to reading and get children across school to have greater fluency in, and comprehension of, the books they read. We are expecting more of every year group, teaching higher level skills and challenging understanding of vocabulary and the author's intentions. You will hear your children talking about ERIC time first thing in the morning (Everyone Reading In Class), where we are working on children's confidence in reading the words in challenging texts. In January, we also introduced RIC questions (Retrieval, Interpret, Choice) which are increasingly challenging questions which explore comprehension. Of course while we work on the reading skills, we are also continuing the good work in writing and maths as well as keeping the curriculum interesting and creative with our topic work.

What you can do to help your child:

- Organise for your child to have 10-30mins (depending on age) of sustained reading at home every day. Research shows that one of the key ways to improve reading skills is to read regularly.
- Find time to read and talk about books together.
- Join the library and go every few weeks to choose books for free!
- Encourage your child to use 'bug club' on line reading books regularly
- Encourage your child to read a wide range of different reading materials e.g. sports magazines, comics, newspapers, non-fiction information books as well as stories

Daily independent reading makes a massive difference to a child's abilities. Research shows that if your child reads 5 appropriate books a month they are almost twice as likely to be reading at a level beyond their age.

Find Out More:

If you want to know more about the 'coasting schools' judgement, or to understand more about this results data, Ms McKay is holding a **drop-in session to answer parent/carer questions on Tuesday 7th February at 3.15-4pm** (enter through the school main entrance). This will be an informal Question and Answer session – not a formal presentation- so you can come for 5mins to ask a question or stay longer to hear what others say. Please let us know if this information is useful and any other ways we can keep you fully informed by emailing us at office@moorallertonhall.leeds.sch.uk or contacting us via the website. We always value your feedback when you think things are going well or if you see the need for changes.