



THE *sir*  
DONALD BAILEY ACADEMY

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

***Vision:***

*Challenging educational orthodoxies so that every child makes good progress in core subjects;  
all teachers are committed to personal improvement and fulfil their responsibilities;  
all children receive a broad and balanced curriculum;  
all academies strive to be outstanding.*

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**School Improvement Update-April 2021**

In the Spring Term we continued to improve as a school. **We achieved the following:**

- Despite a second National Lockdown, The Sir Donald Bailey Academy has continued to deliver quality teaching and learning opportunities for all children.
- We have appointed Miss Emma Makepeace as our new teacher in Foundation Stage. Miss Makepeace has taken over from Mrs Pick, who has moved to another academy within The Forge Trust. Miss Makepeace has worked in other academies and has been working closely with both our Foundation Stage and Year One teams. **Low class sizes ensure teachers quickly identify each child's stage of learning and can provide work that is tailored to need. It also supports the child's wellbeing as the teacher can build effective relationships, allowing the teacher to identify any support needed, in quick time.**
- Remote learning through Tapestry and Class Dojo has proved effective during the recent lockdown. Children were able to continue with their education and access the curriculum from home. Microsoft TEAMS was used effectively to support the mental health and wellbeing of children via a weekly meeting. Children and staff in school were able to communicate with children working from home. **School is able to fully communicate with children and share home learning during the COVID lockdown period.**
- The National Tutoring programme has begun in Year 3. Children are taking part in additional sessions of English and Maths, based on gaps in their learning. Easter school was successful with children receiving intensive support during the first week of the Easter holidays. **High-quality tuition and literature are providing additional support to help pupils who have missed out the most as a result of school closures.**
- Staff have continued to attend online and some distanced 'face to face' training sessions during the Spring Term. Staff continued to develop their skills in REAL PE. They also took part in SEN Dyslexia training, safeguarding and training for the IT platform 'Purple Mash'. **The staff team start the new term full of confidence and look forward to welcoming the children back and providing the best teaching and support possible for all children.**

- Our research has continued into the 'reading for pleasure' agenda, and we are refining our approach to ensure that every child becomes a willing reader. We have invested in the 'Scholastic Reading Pro' system. The online platform aims to bring together carefully levelled children's books with a computer test to measure a child's reading level; Scholastic Reading Pro engages young readers with a personalised book recommendation and quizzes to monitor and assess independent reading. All staff have received training in how to assess and monitor children. **We will be one of the first schools in the country that can confidently match reader ability with text difficulty, and prove that a reading book is appropriate for any child and their current ability level.**
- We have appointed a 'Reading Champion' to our staff team, who will promote reading for pleasure across the school and support teachers with subject knowledge about books and authors for specific needs of each age and phase. In addition to this they will:
  - ensure the full stock and sound upkeep of all reading books in the library;
  - liaise with teachers regarding children's reading (Reading Pro);
  - advise and encourage parents and carers in reading matters (parent engagement).
- We will continue our work with the Department for Education's 'English Hub', Mr Hessey (who is leading the research) and an approved independent Reading Consultant, Carl Pattison, throughout the summer term. Our work will focus on the children's daily whole class reading sessions (using decodable books) in Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. **Our aim is for children to be fluent readers and have lots of practise at reading during the additional sessions.**
- We have appointed architects to create plans to build a new library at the front of school. It will be state of the art, and there will be a section of the library for parents and carers of the school, as well as other adults who live in Hawtonville. **We are investing in our community and prioritise reading above everything else.**

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or worries regarding your child's learning during this challenging period. We will always be there to help. Irrespective of Covid19, we are confident that we can work with you to make 2020-2021 a success for our school community.



L. Hopper  
(Assistant Principal)  
Foundation/KS1



Joanne Knapp  
(Principal)



M. Sangha  
(Assistant Principal)  
KS2/Pastoral Lead



L. Hessey  
(Exec Principal/CEO)