



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.*

Thursday 13th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Improvement Update-January 2021

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

- Under extremely challenging circumstances, The Sir Donald Bailey Academy has continued to deliver quality teaching and learning opportunities for all children. Our Remote Learning Policy ensures that all children are receiving an education linked to our curriculum. **We have a contingency plan in place for the current pandemic.**
- We have continued to improve how we teach phonics and early reading, and Mr Hessey is working closely with the Department for Education's English Hub to ensure we are forward thinking and ahead of the game when it comes to teaching reading. **We recognise that reading is the most important subject in school and vital for our children's future life chances.**
- We have been able to release Mrs McIlwrath our SENCo, to be out of class full-time to ensure all our SEND children have provision that is tailored to their need. Mrs Sallie Hewitt, a very experienced and former teacher of Sir Donald Bailey, has also been appointed to teach our phonics interventions and lower class sizes. **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.**
- To further improve communication and in addition to our text messaging and Twitter communications, Class Dojo has been fully introduced from Year 1 to Year 6 to share news and extra learning opportunities. Foundation Stage and Pre-School have successfully been using Tapestry. Parents can contact the class teacher to share successes from home and ask any questions regarding their child's education and school life. These platforms have enabled us to provide remote learning opportunities for all children. **School is able to fully communicate with children and share home learning during the COVID lockdown period.**
- To narrow the gap in learning lost through lockdown, school has registered and partnered with the National Tutoring Programme. This programme will be rolled out to certain year groups across the Spring Term. School has also invested in an e-book library to support home reading during lockdown. **High-quality tuition and literature are providing additional support to help pupils who have missed out the most as a result of school closures.**

- We have continued to tweak and improve our curriculum, and are driving improvements in all subjects across the trust. In History, Geography, Science and Religious Education, teachers have guidance on what they should be teaching lesson by lesson. **We are ensuring that all children receive the highest quality teaching irrespective of what teacher they may have.**
- Staff have attended many online and some distanced 'face to face' training sessions during the Autumn Term. All staff have accessed REAL PE training. REAL PE will transform how to teach PE in order to include, challenge and support EVERY child. We will develop the key abilities that children need to be successful within PE and Sport and across the curriculum. Our continued staff development in the delivery of Letter and Sounds, is ensuring high-quality teaching of phonics for all children. **The staff team start the new year full of confidence and look forward to welcoming the children back and providing the best teaching and support possible for all children.**

We are currently researching the 'reading for pleasure' agenda, and how we can get every child to become willing readers. We will be sending out guidance this term on the next steps and what this will mean for your child.

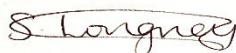
On a different note, Mrs Longney is leaving our school to take up a new role at Bishop Grosseteste University in February 2021, where she will train new teachers. In recent years she has achieved a Masters Degree in Education, and has been pivotal in improving English across The Forge Trust. She has also been a key player in our school and has ensured our children achieve high standards in Year 6. I am sure you will join us in wishing Mrs Longney well with her new challenge.

Finally, 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.

J. Knapp
Principal



S. Longney
Vice Principal



L. Hopper
Assistant Principal
Foundation/KS1



M. Sangha
Assistant Principal
KS2/Pastoral Lead



L. Hessey
Exec Principal / CEO

