



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.*

Friday 22nd April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Improvement Update-April 2022

Welcome back to the Summer Term at The Sir Donald Bailey Academy. We hope that you all had a restful Easter break and we look forward to working with you for the rest of the academic year.

There are many of you who bring your children to school on time every day and as a result they have excellent attendance. Attendance and punctuality are important disciplines that help to structure our daily lives and must be taught to the children. Schools have a duty to prepare pupils for life in the 21st century as fully formed citizens and part of this journey is to teach them about the importance of these two disciplines. The Government line on attendance is very clear:

'Central to raising standards in education and ensuring all pupils can fulfil their potential is an assumption so widely understood that it is insufficiently stated – pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less in both primary and secondary school.'

Our planned improvements to our Foundation Stage One and Foundation Stage Two have now been finished. The children have enjoyed watching it being built and are now benefitting from the new playground. *Children have access to the best facilities in the area. This will enable all children to access an outstanding outdoor learning.*

We have continued to promote our love of reading, with children engaging well in our refurbished library. Our work here, is not yet finished and across this term you will be invited to join us for reading sessions with your children. *Research shows that parental involvement in their children's learning positively affects the child's performance at school.*

Last term, some of our Year 6 children took part in the 'Wolfit Drama Festival. One of the judges commented that 'Their reading and poetry was absolutely beautiful. They used expression, tone and grammar to engage their audiences and for first time festival entrants their confidence was impressive.'
Pupils' confidence levels grow as they go from speaking to small groups of people up to large audiences.

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Principal: Mrs Jo Knapp (NPQH)

Executive Principal & CEO: Lee Hessey (MA Ed (dist), FCCT, NLE)

As part of our SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) curriculum, children in year 4 have taken part in a six-week anti-racism project. They have learnt to recognise what racism is, and how to deal with issues in an appropriate manner. The children have delivered an assembly to the rest of Key Stage Two. Staff have also had training on how to deal with racist incidents. Children across school will now take part in lessons appropriate to their age during the Summer Term. Pupils should know how to stand up to bullying and prejudice-based incidents.

Staff have continued to attend online and 'face to face' training sessions during the Spring Term. They have received further training on Reading, Speaking and Listening, Curriculum updates and Trauma. This term staff will continue to develop their skills in REAL PE and keeping children safe online. 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.

The Sir Donald Bailey Academy football team have continued to play well. At the half-way stage, the team have played and won all of their fixtures, so they currently sit at the top of the table. Children have also taken part in Boccia tournaments and other boys and girls football fixtures. Studies have shown that children who play sports perform better at school. It is also within sport that peer status and peer acceptance is established and developed.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or worries regarding your child's learning.

L. Hopper
Assistant Principal
Foundation/KS1



J. Knapp
Principal



M. Sangha
Assistant Principal
KS2/Pastoral Lead



L. Hessey
Exec Principal / CEO