



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 6th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**School Improvement Update-January 2023**

Welcome back to the start of the new year at The Sir Donald Bailey Academy. We hope that you all had a restful Christmas holiday and we look forward to working with you for the rest of the academic year.

Staffing

During the Autumn Term, we were very fortunate to be able to appoint Miss Swainston and Miss Wyatt to complement our Year 5 and Year 6 teams. Miss Hodgson will also be joining our Year 5 team from January to teach sets in the morning. *Low class sizes ensure teachers quickly identify each child's stage of learning, and enables us to provide work that is tailored to their needs. They also support pupil's wellbeing as the teacher can build strong relationships, allowing the teacher to identify any support needed in quick time.*

School Development

Work on our school development priorities has continued in the Autumn Term. We have recently been visited by our consultant from the English Hub, who has quality assured our work in phonics. We are well on track to reach our target of a 90% pass rate in June 2023. Reading for Pleasure also continues to be high on our agenda. Our reading cafes are very well attended by parents and we have received half termly visits by Gareth Baker our Patron of Reading. *Reading for pleasure has been positively linked with an increase in the following literacy-related benefits for children:*

- *Reading attainment, phonics and writing ability;*
- *Text comprehension and grammar;*
- *Improved spelling Breadth of vocabulary;*
- *Positive reading attitudes and Greater self-confidence as a reader.*

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Principal: Mrs Jo Knapp (NPQH)

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

## Curriculum

As part of the RSE Curriculum, children in Years FS2, Year 1 and 2 took part in First Aid Training. The children learned how to deal with bumps, burns, breaks and bleeding, carry out CPR and deal with choking. The trainer from Mini First Aid commented that the children were 'a credit' to our school. The programme will be rolled out to years 3 and 4 on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of January. Pupils learn how to make a clear and efficient call to emergency services, and the concepts of basic first-aid. For example, dealing with common injuries, including head injuries.

## Attendance

At The Sir Donald Bailey Academy, we have a strong focus on attendance. We recognise that all children will have days when they are not able to go to school; whether that's due to illness, or a family emergency. Missing a few days of school here and there may not seem a big deal, but research shows that it can have a significant impact on children's learning. Most of the work they miss is never made up, which can lead to big gaps in their learning. Friendships can be affected by persistent absence too: it can be hard for a child who misses lots of school to form relationships with their classmates. Poor attendance often starts at primary school, and children who fall into this pattern are likely to underachieve at secondary school. Pupils who miss between 10 and 20% of school (that's 19 to 38 days per year) stand only a 35% chance of achieving five or more good GCSEs, compared to 73% of those who miss fewer than 5% of school days.

## Continued Professional Development

Staff have continued their training schedule across the Autumn Term. The Anti-Bullying team delivered Coping with Risky Behaviours training. Staff have further developed their knowledge in all aspects of the curriculum, but with a strong focus on Reading, Writing and Mathematics. CPD is intended to support teachers and to equip them with the skills and knowledge required to keep pace with the rapidly changing educational and professional environment.

## Community Links

Our children have been very busy out and about in the local community. Our choir sang at a local care home and shared some new and some favourite Christmas songs with the residents. We also decorated a Christmas Tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church in town. Nativities and Open Afternoons were held in school for Foundation Stage. Key Stage One children took part in a Christmas performance. When students get involved **in their community**, they not only help others — they expand their world view, develop empathy and leadership skills, and realize how their actions can have a positive impact.



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As always, please let us know if you have any questions or worries regarding your child's learning. Our Parent's Evenings take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March and we look forward to seeing you there. In partnership with you, we aim to continue to make 2023 a success for our school community.

L. Hopper  
Assistant Principal  
KS1

J. Knapp  
Principal

M. Sangha  
Assistant Principal  
KS2/Pastoral Lead

L. Hessey  
Exec Principal / CEO

C. Baker  
Assistant Principal  
FS