



THE *sir*  
DONALD BAILEY ACADEMY

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

***Vision***

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

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**School Improvement Update-April 2023**

Welcome back to the start of the new term at The Sir Donald Bailey Academy. We hope that you all had a restful Easter holiday, and we look forward to working with you for the rest of the Summer Term.

Staffing

During the Spring Term, we sadly said goodbye to Miss Norton and Miss Hodgson. Miss Norton has relocated to Yorkshire and Miss Hodgson has secured a permanent position at another school. We welcome Miss Deen to our teaching team. We warmly welcome Miss Salmon as our Pastoral Lead. Miss Salmon will be on the gate every morning and will be working with children across school. **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 Spring Term. We have looked closely at our curriculum and have invested time in redeveloping our teaching in RE, computing and PSHE. Children across school have been working on the Anti-Racism Education Programme. The children showed great understanding and were able to talk in depth about equality for all. Our work alongside our Patron of Reading, Gareth Baker has continued. Gareth has worked with many of our children in developing reading for pleasure and writing skills. **Positive reading attitudes towards reading give a greater self-confidence as a reader.**

Curriculum

As part of the RSE Curriculum, children in Years 3 and 4 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. Children across school also had a visit from the Road Safety Team. **Teaching children about road safety from an early age is an important thing that schools, parents and carers can do.**

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Principal: Mrs Jo Knapp (NPQH)  
Executive Principal & CEO: Lee Hessey (MA Ed (dist), FCCT, NLE)

## Trips and Visitors

Last term, our children took part in a variety of different learning experiences. We have had Vikings, Egyptians and wild animal workshops in school. Children have visited the Holocaust Centre and taken trips to Balderton Lakes. By escaping the everyday confines of the classroom, and sharing new experiences, pupils can build trust and respect with each other. The time spent with the group over a school trip can help pupils to develop key social skills too.

## Attendance

At The Sir Donald Bailey Academy, we are continuing to work on improving attendance. I am delighted to say that our attendance is starting to improve. Nationally, Primary attendance increased by 0.9% points to 94.5% from w/e 17th March to the 24<sup>th</sup> March. School's attendance data for that period was above National at 95.1%. Our overall attendance to date is 93.6%. Thank you for your continued support with attendance. 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 Spring Term. Staff have embraced a new RE curriculum and have developed teaching plans in Geography, History and Computing. 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.

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



C. Baker  
Assistant Principal  
FS



L. Hessey  
Exec Principal / CEO

