



Term 3 Summary

I met with Katy Thomas in January 2016, we went through the literacy action plan for 2015-6, and did a learning walk through school.

I liked the fact that there is encouragement to read everywhere. The outdoor classroom has reading books; every class has a reading area; there are book displays outside classrooms; a reading corridor with suggested books and book review templates to take away. Key grammar points were on the walls in the classrooms. Some classes had crib sheets on the tables to remind children what to try and include in their writing. New books have been bought for KS2 and are coming for KS1. Many more displays show examples of children's writing than when I did a similar walk a year ago. And the writing seems to be of a high standard, with attention given to presentation.

Many interventions are in place for children who struggle with literacy, and these are all evaluated. Booster groups and interventions are having an impact. Staff are committed to inspiring a love of reading and writing, and creativity is important to the school. The drama day and author visits are examples of this. There is already a very popular book club in year 4, and this could be rolled out to other year groups if more volunteers were forthcoming.

One thing that stood out for me is how vital it is for families to support children with reading at home. Not always easy to do, but the difference between those that do and those that don't is very visible to teachers, and it is hard for school to replace the value of reading for 5-10 mins daily.

A big thank you to Katy Thomas for taking the time to meet with me, and to all staff for the excellent work that is underway to support reading, and encourage accurate and creative writing in the school.

Caroline Hukins