

Report to Governors

2015-2016

English

In April 2016, I took over from Mrs White as English Leader. I have been meeting with Mrs Dennett weekly to develop English at Sherington, and to develop my own role and further my career development.

Curriculum Events

Visit from Author-Mac Barnett

Starting the curriculum year on a high note, in September we welcomed an acclaimed children's author Mac Barnett to Sherington. In an assembly to KS2, Mac delivered an inspiring vision of how he writes and collaborates with other authors to create his books. He finished with a reading and book signing of his new book "The Terrible Twos".



Presentation to Reception Parents

In September, Mrs White and Ms Burnell delivered a presentation to reception parents outlining how they could support their child at home in reading and writing. The event was, as ever, well attended, with 80% of pupils being represented. Parents were then given the opportunity to visit their child in the classroom to see and observe first hand some of the strategies discussed in the meeting. Feedback from questionnaires show that parents found the session very useful and that it would change how they work with their child at home. Pertinent questions were asked which have forced me to reflect on the content of next year's presentation. Handouts were given for parents to take home to further support their children.

English Open Morning



In November we welcomed parents into school for our English open morning. Our Poetry focus provided an opportunity for parents and carers to gain an insight into the teaching and the progression in these skills from EYFS to Year 6. The event was well attended and parental evaluations show parents went away with a better understanding of how Poetry is taught in our school. The open morning also provided an opportunity to provide staff with CPD around the teaching of poetry and how the 'blackout' technique for selecting vocabulary can be used across English in KS2.

Year 6 National Theatre Project

In the Autumn term, Year 6 classes worked with the National Theatre Company. This aimed to introduce children to theatre and performance through a high-quality touring production, alongside a creative learning programme with a focus on English. The impressive impact of these sessions was evident through their end of year performance, as well as their writing outcomes through English sessions.

Christmas Story Telling

In the week leading up to Christmas, Mrs Dennett and Ms Burnell hosted Christmas Storytelling sessions, for the second year running. Pupils were invited back to school at 5pm to listen to Christmas stories. This is a popular event where children enjoy listening to stories, in their pyjamas, with their parents there as well.

World Book Day

World Book Day was celebrated on March 4th with pupils and staff dressing up as characters from 'Toys in Space'. As in previous years, pupils were given the opportunity to take part in English activities with different teachers in different classrooms, with an assembly giving everyone the chance to show off their ingenious and creative

costumes. World Book Day was further celebrated with our 'Great Sherington Book Swap' where children from Nursery to Year 6 enjoyed browsing for a new book.



Poet Laurette

In June, as part of our preparations for Arts Week, we have had a whole school poetry focus around 'Rio-Carnival' with all classes devising a poem based around their dance. The product of this unit of work has been displayed in ambitious displays along with the gallery art work. Each teacher nominated one pupil to go forward to the 'finals' of our Sherington 'Poet Laureate' competition. The winner will be announced in Arts Week assembly. Feedback shows that this, and the whole school poetry in the autumn term, has really helped to raise the profile of poetry around the school with pupils becoming more confident at writing poems and eager to be shortlisted for the finals of the competition!

Teaching and learning

- **Book monitoring and subsequent feedback**
 - This has been ongoing through learning walks and 1:1 discussion and feedback
 - Book monitoring conducted once a term
 - Written/verbal personalised feedback offered to all teachers with clear points for improvement
 - Actionable targets reviewed in subsequent book look
 - Best practice shared in Year Group and Phase meetings/reviews
 - Written feedback provided for SLT
- **English leadership group**

We met over a course of twilight sessions in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms with a focus on supporting and developing middle leaders with management tasks such as book looks, policy writing and developing pedagogy. Feedback from staff questionnaires shows that colleagues felt that this had supported them with effective monitoring of their subject area.
- **Inspire Partnership**

Being part of the Inspire Partnership has given both myself and the other Year 2 and 6 teachers an opportunity to collaborate, share good practice and moderate work across our schools. The partnership is ongoing and has been an especially useful support network with the new SATs.
- **Professional development**

Rebecca White and Philippa Hornsby attended 'Talk for Reading' hosted by Pie Corbett and I attended Pie Corbett's Talk for Writing. This has had a huge impact on my own teaching of writing and has influenced the way I want to see English being taught across the school.
- **Peer observations**

This year we focussed on English lessons with teachers planning lessons together, observing and feeding back to their Year group partner. The emphasis was on 'feedback at the point of learning' and how that is having the most impact on children's progress.
- **Year 2 Moderation**

This year the Year 2 classes were moderated. Feedback from the moderation was outstanding and the moderators were particularly impressed with children's writing in Year 2. They were amazed by their handwriting and were interested to know which scheme we used.

Lisa Mckeon

June 2016