



Rothersthorpe CE Primary School
Pride, Ability, Positivity
Newsletter December 2016



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Dear Parents,

There have been lots of great opportunities this term for all the children to take part in. Everyone has worked hard to make the Christmas festivities fun. We would all like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017.

Kind regards, Mrs. Fountain

Santa's on Strike: Children showing Santa how loving, caring and sharing they are!



Puppies are not just for Christmas!



Ballerinas & Tin Soldiers Dance



The Elves will help



**A great
performance at
the Deco Theatre
Pantomime: Snow
White & The Seven
Dwarfs from
Blusher!**

Primary School Performance Tables 2016—Based on Y6 Sats Results

Rothersthorpe is in the top 20 schools in Northamptonshire list for 'achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined' and Maths average score.

Well done everyone for helping the children through all the year groups, especially Ms. ACE for their final year!

Our school target this year is to raise our results for 'greater depth—exceeding' across the school.

Note: Results for 'meeting the expected standard' may not take into account the good progress that children with special educational needs make. With our small cohorts our results can change each year with different cohort dynamics and needs— Our % per pupil can range from 6.7% to 12.5%.

It's most important that children are happy and healthy at school and achieving the best that they personally can.

Our Focus on Challenge, Perseverance and Growth Mind-sets

Children's learning capacity is powerfully affected by the beliefs they hold about themselves as learners, and these beliefs are in part formed by the messages we may inadvertently and unconsciously be giving them.

The researcher 'Dweck (2006)', suggests that as soon as we are able to make judgements about ourselves as learners, we develop mind-sets that either enhance or inhibit our capacity for learning. A 'growth mind-set' reflects the belief that we are active agents in the learning process with the ability to affect change, but learning may be limited by a 'fixed mind-set' where capacity for learning is perceived as static and unalterable, regardless of the effort we put in.

Dweck's research shows how 'the belief that cherished qualities can be developed creates a passion for learning'. She found that learners of any age who believe that abilities can be cultivated and developed through effort and persistence would: actively seek out new challenges; welcome opportunities for intellectual development; embrace problems and develop creative solutions; welcome opportunities for collaborative learning.

A research example: 4 year olds were offered a choice: they could redo an easy jigsaw, or they could try a harder one. Even at this tender age, children with a fixed mind-set stuck with the safe one. It seemed that self-esteem, in this mind-set, is measured by traditional notions of success so that 'getting it right' becomes more important than 'having a go'.

By contrast, 'children with the growth mind-set—the ones who believed you could get smarter—thought that this was a strange choice' (Dweck). They wondered why anyone would want to do the same puzzle over and over again, and actively embraced the new, more challenging option.

The following children have been recognised for accepting challenges and persevering:

Erin F—always trying her hardest with everything

Susannah —persevering with times tables

Oliver B—working hard in maths

Emily B and Oliver—Persevering all the time and trying new things

Octavian—Improved handwriting

Kira—Persevering with Maths

Oscar—Super speller!

Mae—More confident in writing

Achievement Points

Spencer: 605

Crick: 605

Tull: 575

Redmond: 480



Rothersthorpe School FGB Minutes from 21st November 2016

- The Local Authority Senior Schools Improvement Manager visited the school to complete a monitoring visit. She checked the School Self-Evaluation Document, Improvement Plan and visited all classes. Again the school has been judged by our LA as a very secure good school, aiming for outstanding.
- There are still Foundation and Community Governor Vacancies.
- Governors were in agreement to approach PDET (Peterborough Diocese Education Trust) regarding the process of becoming a Church academy.
- A range of Safeguarding, Teaching and Learning, Pupil Premium policies were agreed.
- KK informed Governors that a planning application has been submitted to SNC for a 4/5 bedroom house down the narrow lane to the Church. This will obviously affect road conditions outside school.
- Some governors attended Ofsted Readiness & Accountability training.

Finance and Personnel

- Performance Appraisals have been completed.
- DW agreed to join the Finance/Personnel Committee until the vacancy is filled.
- Additional staffing and costs in Class 2 were discussed.
- Awaiting on outcome of 'Fairer Funding' by the Government and Department for Education.
- NF to contact the Diocese regarding a part loan towards the cost of the class 4 extension.
- Prospective parents for September 2017 have looked around the school. There are 9 siblings/village children and we have shown around nine others. Governors discussed the new schools which are planned for the area and recent issues with Campion Secondary. Could our intake be affected?

Curriculum and Health & Safety

- FN reported that during her teaching and learning termly monitoring she visited all classes and saw lots of different activities showing challenge for the 'more-able' pupils and differentiated work using a variety of resources. Ms. ACE showed an example of a piece of persuasive writing and Governors commented that this genre of writing was an excellent life skill. Following the visit FN completed a scrutiny of a range of pupil books across the school focusing on Marking/ Feedback, differentiation, challenge and presentation.
- Governors were pleased to hear that the Strictly dancing at the Derngate has gone so well at the weekend, NF reported a number of favourable comments praising the event and the children, particularly their positive attitude to others.
- PD reported back on the H&S buildings inspections. Only 4 minor points to deal with.
- Ms. ACE showed all Governors the pupil tracking 2015/16 results for each year group. The school target area is for more children to reach 'exceeding' in reading and writing. Staff are addressing through small group work, high-level vocabulary focus and new comprehension resources.

Safeguarding/SEND/Equality/Pupil Premium

- KK met with NF to complete the annual safeguarding audit and report.
- NF has purchased on-line Safeguarding training for governors and volunteers.
- During the LA visit, the school 'single central record' and recruitment documentation was checked and confirmed that it was 'compliant'.
- FN and NF also completed an audit of the school website to ensure compliance.
- NF met with AB regarding completion of the Pupil Premium Strategy.

Our Busy and Supportive Friends of School—FoRS

Thank you for a brilliant start to the new school fundraising year

- Book and cake sale with pupil social enterprise
- Christmas Fayre—fun art and crafts for everyone
- Raffle—great prizes won

Our friends are currently raising money to update the school laptops, new books for KS1 and whole-school trip in the summer
Thank you to everyone who came along and supported.



Dates for your Diaries

Tue 20th December 9.30am

Nativity in Church (Adults & pre-schoolers invited)—**Classes 1 & 4 performing. Ticket only.** (Separate letter sent out).

Tue 20th December 1.45pm

Nativity & Christingle in Church—Classes 1 & 4 performing.
No Pre-schoolers. Ticket only. All classes will join in with the Christingle song at the end. 3pm Church raffle, tea and cakes in the school hall. (Last day).

Christmas holidays Wed 21st December 2016 to Wed 4th January 2017

Wed 4th January 2017

Training day

Thurs 5th January 2017

Back to school

9th January 2017

Touring Pantomime in School

March 2017

Choir performance at Wembley Arena—in aid of fostering and adoption
Y2 & Y6 Sats. Y1 Phonics Test. (These are statutory tests and holidays during this period are very disruptive for children and staff. Holidays will not be authorised).

Amy's Prize Winners for hard work & good behaviour



Festive Christmas Jumpers for Charity



A very successful Dolce Christmas Dinner

The Christmas dinner was spectacular.
The mash was tasty.
The sausages were delicious.
It was yummy!



.What have our children enjoyed this term?

I enjoyed dancing the jive at the Derngate.

I enjoyed all the Maths challenges.

Building Lego models.

Cutting and colouring.

I'm much better at solving problems in Maths.

My writing is much neater and I use interesting words.

Practising for the Nativity with class 1.

I've got better at handwriting.

I write better sentences now.

Making dinosaur models.

I've improved my joined handwriting.

I like doing times tables.