



# Headteacher's Report to the Pathfield Governing Body January 2022

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## 1. Headteacher's Summary

**New Attendance Strategy** - Attendance Policy, Parent's Booklet, new roles and responsibilities. Two new Attendance Officer roles, Senior Attendance Officer role. 'Teachers 2 Parents' text and email service set up to support parental contact.

**Initial Review** - Diana Denman (Babcock) had held initial meetings with myself and AM. We looked at school development priorities and curriculum development, there are two development days booked to continue this work as part of an updated School Improvement Partner role.

**New reading areas** - New reading areas have been installed in the main corridor and stairwell areas. These reading areas look fantastic and are just awaiting the books and wall art to complete them. They have already been used for small group work and during the phonics screening.

**COVID 19** - The COVID rates have fluctuated dramatically since the last report with a significant rise drop off and rise again. As of the 24<sup>th</sup> January there were 24 positive cases with 16 of these being members of staff. The majority of these cases were reported over a weekend which is difficult to predict and plan for. Cases have often clustered in specific classes at a time. Once within a class the spread can be quick and widespread which is predictable due to the close proximity in which classes work.

Guidance on mask wearing has been introduced in line with the latest government advice and where it has been specific to secondary pupils we have introduced it across the school.

When there is an increase in cases we also see an increase in the anxiety of staff with an increase in the reporting of suspected cases.

As this report was written the school has experienced a huge wave of COVID-19 with over 40 cases across the pupils and staff. This is double previous peaks and has put the school under significant strain. Staff have rallied incredibly well and as of the 27/1/22 we remain open to all. The surge in cases also appears to be affecting other schools in the local community and I do not feel that there is anything that we could do differently at this time to prevent cases.

## 2. School Data

**Pupils on roll** - 191 on roll

**Attendance** - Current attendance rate - 85.86 % This rate had been improving, but will be impacted upon the recent COVID-19 cases. The introduction of the new Attendance Strategy is proving useful in supporting Early Help when attendance is raised.

**Attainment** - The next attainment review will be held after half term as we have moved over to a twice-yearly monitoring cycle. This will include pupil progress review meetings with class teachers.

## 3. School Development Plan

There has been good progress in key areas of the SDP and it is broadly on schedule. There has been good progress on the use of Evidence for Learning and review of information being collected on the system was carried out at the start of this term.

## 4. Quality of Education - Teaching and Learning

**Curriculum development** - Learning walks took place in the second half of the Autumn term with a focus on the Learning environment. These were carried out jointly by SLT and the department leads. There were some areas of outstanding practice and some areas for development. Feedback has been shared with individual teachers and departments followed this up with their own learning walks.

A teacher visit to Woodlands school as part of the Read, Write Inc (RWI) implementation was undertaken by Pathfield teachers who have led on the phonics training and pupil screening across the school this term.

Three different sets of training were provided at the start of the term on RWI, Relational Approaches and the ABLLS curriculum. All the training was well received and it was good to be able to provide high quality training for all staff. There will be follow up training for RWI and the Relational groups at the next twilight, with the ABLLS group having an introduction to RWI.

## 5. Staffing

**Appointments** - TA recruitment continues to be a priority and an ongoing process. The numbers applying for posts has significantly dropped. 1 applicant at the close of the latest round and 2 in the previous. We have managed to make some good appointments who are progressing well and when we have seen capability issues we have used the probationary process to support us.

We were unable to appointment a Finance Officer in the last recruitment drive and have re-run the process. There is a strong field of applicants in this round and we are hopeful of making an appointment.

## 6. Safeguarding

A new 'low-level concerns procedure' has been shared with staff and will be a focus of the next safeguarding training. This procedure sits below the Whistleblowing threshold and any LADO referral. It has been a focus of the most recent Keeping Children Safe in Education.

## 7. Resources - Finance, Premises / Health and Safety

At our most recent Senior Management meeting we ran through the processes for raising requisitions, tracking orders and budget monitoring. We looked at the current budget monitoring for this year and began to discuss future planning.

As part of the School Development Plan we have planned for Department Leads to share their development plans in line with budget settings. I am considering at the moment moving Department responsibilities in line with changes in the keystage cohorts. This will impact upon the amount of classes per Department Lead.