



The Great Oaks Federation



@GreatOaksFed

Mr. Booth's Bulletin



November 2018

Autumn Term 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and have had a great start to Term 2. The children and staff are back into routine and are happy and enthusiastic about the busy term ahead. The Christmas term is always full of exciting events so please do keep an eye on the upcoming events on the website or app so that you don't miss out. Also, if you know of any children due to start in Reception next September please encourage their parents to attend our New Intake sessions over the next few weeks and come and see what our great schools have to offer.

This year as a federation our Development Plan includes improving the curriculum, making the best use of assessment information, focusing on the use of research specifically in Reading and continuing to build the federation links. All staff will be working hard to develop these areas and we regularly report on our progress to Governors. However, this year starting from our review point at the end of December we will also be updating you on our progress towards achieving these priorities.

We have already made a start on many of the elements in our development plan, some of which you may have already noticed. These include changes to Marking & Feedback— gone are the long comments and targets by teachers replaced by more immediate verbal feedback, in-class marking and targeted follow-up activities tailored to children's specific needs. We have also moved towards a more themed curriculum and I have been delighted by the superb homework children have produced and the number of parents who attended our showcase and wow events at the end of the term. Our aim is to do one of these events each term to give the children a "real" audience for all their hard work and efforts. The federation is working more closely together than ever and children across the two schools will be broadly covering the same themes at the same time allowing us to arrange joint trips, visitors and events and providing the children with opportunities to share their ideas and learning with the other school.

We continue to try and improve our facilities with the additions to the KS1 trim trail at St Thomas', the improvements to the entrance and car parking at Wyberton and upcoming addition of further sports equipment at Wyberton. You will have also seen recently a letter asking you about the key experiences you would like your child to have during their time in the federation. I would ask that you do take the time to complete this so that we can ensure these experiences are incorporated into our new curriculum from next year.

Following a successful consultation with parents we are now awaiting approval from the Department of Education regarding our application to become an academy. Once we have received further information I will write to you in more detail explaining the next steps. As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Your Sincerely,

Gavin Booth— Executive Headteacher

'From little acorns grow mighty oaks'