



Inspire Federation

Newsletter

January 19

The Inspire Federation will be one of opportunity for all within an environment of inclusiveness, respect and compassion.

Pupils, parents, staff and governors will be supported in developing and nurturing new skills that enable individuals to grow. Collaboration will empower us to offer the very best experiences that allow all those within it to thrive and fulfil aspirations. Through strong partnerships, we will embrace new ideas together, finding innovative ways to create an environment that endorses the very best learning so we all reach our full potential.

Dear Parents and Carers,

The new year and new term is now in full swing and the Inspire Federation continues to grow in strength as a result of collaborative working.

Staff Collaboration

The staff at Four Elms and Seal come together at least twice a term (what used to be a half term). Since the start of November, we have joined for a writing moderation, safeguarding training and LGBT training and an inset on deepening learning and effective communication. Effective communication is a whole federation project on developing communication skills for all pupils.

The teachers continue to work together on planning the best learning experiences for the children. We have set up a lesson study approach which allows teachers to observe the learning in each other's classes, identify good practice and plan new lessons together based on the successes identified.

Teachers from both schools have been meeting to plan maths experiences. This has helped teachers share ideas and ultimately create experiences which are more engaging and have better contextual outcomes. Teachers came together to deliver joint presentations in a staff meeting earlier this term to share the impact of contextualised learning in their classes. The overwhelming message was that pupils were more engaged as they found learning exciting and it had a purpose; this has meant that pupils are making better progress, both within a lesson and over time. The long term plan is to create a bank of mathematical contextualised experiences at both schools which will help teachers with future planning.

Mrs Newport at Four Elms and Miss Stuart from Seal have worked together on expectations in Year 5-6, observing good practice across the two schools.

School Improvement

Middle leaders across the Inspire Federation continue to work together on school improvement. The maths leaders (Miss Newport, Mrs Jones and Mr Cook) are taking part in a county wide Maths project, funded by the Strategic School Improvement Fund (government led) together, learning about the different stages of maths to build fluency, reasoning and problem solving. Last term they attended a session on appropriate questions for the children and how to support children to develop mastery of maths.

Information and strategies gained from attending the training is fed back to the teachers to improve the quality of maths teaching and learning across the federation.

The English leaders have been working together to develop the practice of Read, Write, Inc across the federation. Both Miss St Clair and Mrs Marsh have held parent workshop at Four Elms, they will be holding one at Seal shortly.

Miss Fermor has the role of Deepening Learning Leader across the federation and has been holding 1:1 mentoring sessions with staff from both schools, developing their understanding of the learning process from know through to show and then grow. Miss Fermor will be creating a document for parents which will help you understand the approach to teaching and learning across the federation.

Future Collaboration

Having spoken to PTA members from both schools, we all felt it would be beneficial for the two committees to get together to share fundraising ideas for their individual schools. Having worked alongside both PTAs, there is a common aim – to provide the very best educational experiences for the children. Collaboration allows for creative thinking across organisations.

The maths leaders are planning a shared staff meeting after half term to further develop the quality of maths teaching across the federation in response to new learning through the maths project mentioned earlier.

Inspire Federation Governing Body

Governors have begun their monitoring visits across the federation. Governors have been paired up and their monitoring responsibilities agreed. At the Full Governing Body meeting in December, governors approved the Federation Improvement Plan which was written to compliment both Seal and Four Elms' individual School Improvement Plans. It also works towards achieving the federation's vision of consistency, equality and equity.

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding the Inspire Federation, please complete the comments slip below and return to the school office.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Mitchell

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Comments slip

Name:

Date: