



College Town Primary School

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Head Teacher Mrs. Trudi Sammons MA

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to you all, and although Christmas is now somewhat of a distant memory I trust it was an enjoyable and fun time.

The Spring term here at College Town is going to start with a bang, quite literally, as we welcome Rock Steady and their music lessons later this week. Also, to the delight of the children, there are new outdoor musical instruments in our Forest School area and the KS2 playground which I know they will enjoy playing too.

Spring term sees the school's evaluation cycle focus specifically on Teaching & Learning, having spent the Autumn term evaluating standards and outcomes. This cycle of self-evaluation, enables the school to continually review and assess our progress in each of these areas; enabling us to continue our mission of being the best that we can be. This process is also instrumental in determining the areas for the school improvement.

Our end of KS2 results last year demonstrated good outcomes for reading and maths, but once again writing was the poor relation. Ofsted recently released a report on UK schools stating that reading has improved but writing and spoken language still need more focus. So, while it is reassuring to know we are not alone it does mean that we must address this and seek ways to improve our teaching and curriculum so that pupils develop the necessary skills.

Last term we worked with our school's standards and effectiveness partner, along with an external literacy specialist to support our leadership and practice in developing writing skills and outcomes for our pupils and we have already seen improvements across the school. This term we will continue to work with our external consultant and staff training will be focused on planning and modelling the writing process so that all teachers can effectively support all pupils to become successful writers.

You too can also play in huge part in supporting your child's writing by encouraging them to read daily at home for pleasure. Without reading, children are at a disadvantage when they are asked to write as they lack the necessary experience. Lack of exposure and experience of how an author uses words, phrases, and sentences to skilfully engage the reader hinders a child's progress in this area. Furthermore, to be an effective writer, an extensive vocabulary is required. Reading provides a wealth of opportunity like no other, hence the critical importance of reading. So...please do your very best to encourage a love of reading in your children. As a school

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we shall be considering new reading rewards to further increase the children's motivation to read both in and beyond the classroom.

While on the topic of reading, the school was fortunate to receive an incredibly generous donation in December and we have decided to use the funds to revamp our KS2 library. Mrs Farrant, our English Lead, has already been coming up with designs so I know she will be extremely excited to know that her vision can become a reality very soon!

Finally, last term we were really pleased that our school attendance was in the top 25% of UK schools and over 25% of our pupils were awarded 100% attendance certificates for the Autumn term. We were also joint 5th for attendance in the local borough. Thank you as ever for your support.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Trudi Sammons
Headteacher

