

# Date Valley School

Company number: 06845508 Registered Charity number: 1136298  
Mitcham Court, Cricket Green, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 4LB  
Telephone: 0208 648 4647 · Tel: 07980299717 Email: [schooloffice@dvst.org.uk](mailto:schooloffice@dvst.org.uk)



Dear Parents,

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017

Asalamu alaikum

I pray this mail finds you in the best of health and eeman.

As we come to the end of the autumn term and following my previous letter in November, I would like to take this opportunity to inform parents of the events that have taken place at school this term.

We are happy to confirm that the school Action Plan has been submitted to the Department of Education (DfE) on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017, once this has been accepted by the DfE we will make this available to parent's in'shaa Allah.

Following the Ofsted inspection the School Leadership Team (SLT) have been proactive in ensuring all areas of concern have been identified and measures put in place for rectification. Sr Erum has taken the lead on updating the Curriculum Policy; this has led to many discussions. Parents will be able to see the updated policy online in the spring term, in'shaa Allah.

The co-ordinators have been busy ensuring various subjects have been taught effectively and monitored. Sr Tasnim and Sr Erum have taken the lead on introducing the Maths Mastery curriculum. There has been a buzz of excitement in school with both teachers and children celebrating the understanding and progress of children particularly in problem solving. The Manager's Office has seen a steady influx of children eager to gain golden stickers for a positive attitude to learning and eager to share their fantastic work with Mudeera and the other mangers.

I have taken the lead on the writing/ literacy curriculum as the Literacy Co-ordinator and I have been busy with lesson observations and Learning Walks in areas such as: Teaching Writing Lessons, Effective Marking, Assessment for Learning, Differentiation, Use of TA and Resources. On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 I delivered a writing training to staff, where we looked at DfE guidance on exemplars which help identify children who are working towards, met and achieving greater depth. This training has led to improved teaching and writing from the children. Teachers are more confident and informed in marking children's writing.

The SLT have initialised book scrutinies for writing and mastery workbooks, these take place every week and all teachers have an individual action plan to help ensure the marking and feedback requirements are being met effectively. We know that not only are inspectors keen to see effective marking and feedback in children's workbooks but it is vital for the children to see this and be given the opportunities to respond to teacher marking and feedback. This especially allows children to feel they are progressing. Sr Neena, who is one of the Governors on the Teaching and Learning Committee, has been supporting the SLT to implement book scrutinies and help support the staff in implementing changes.

On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the school delivered training on effective use of the Teaching Assistant and Resources which is having had a good response in the effectiveness of this in class. SLT observations and learning walks are ongoing as a monitoring tool to ensure this good practice continues. The SLT have also carried out child progress tracking moderation on 20<sup>th</sup> November where teachers were required to verify their assessment of the children. Sr Erum has also carried out SEN training for teachers to ensure the needs of children who require intervention are being catered to.

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Sr Neena has been very active in supporting the SLT and the teaching staff. Her internal staff training has been well received and effective in making positive changes in the school. We are very grateful for her professional input. Sr Neena has given up her own time to carry out twilight training sessions in line with the borough guidance. She has delivered the following training sessions which have fed into DfE school actions plan:

- SLT and Teacher book scrutiny training
- Effective Marking feedback
- What does a good lesson look like?
- Assessment for Learning
- Effective differentiation

The impact of all training sessions have been monitored by the SLT via Learning Walks and follow up observation schedules, where the SLT expect to see the training sessions informing the practice in the classroom. Alhamdulillah we are making steady progress. All teachers are working very hard with a full year of training being fast tracked in three months!

Sr Erum has been in contact with the Merton Early Years department and the school has bought in an advisory visit from the EY support team. Tracy Clark (Merton EY advisor) visited the school on 24<sup>th</sup> November and carried out an EY provision audit. Alhamdulillah she was happy with the setting and helped identify areas for improvement, all of which have been reflected in the action plan. I have been liaising with a number of educational consultants from the Association of Muslim Schools (AMS) and the Merton Borough educational consultancy team. The school has taken advice from the AMS which has assisted in devising the action plan submitted to the DfE. Furthermore they are willing to support the school with ongoing training. The Merton School Improvement Team will be coming into school to carry out a moderation of the children's progress and tracking. We are also working with the Merton Team to secure a primary advisory visit, to audit the school performance which will help prepare the school for the next Ofsted visit, in'shaa Allah. This will identify our areas of strength and weaknesses since the last inspection and allow us to have a clearer focus.

Teachers have also been attending external training on mastery which has fed into the classroom practice and is being monitored by Sr Erum as Head Of Curriculum and Sr Tasnim as Numeracy Co-ordinator.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 the school training will see a visit from the Merton Police for Prevent training and the staff will also have a Fire Marshal training in line with our health and safety requirements.

All education school policies have been scheduled for a review, in'shaa Allah, over the rest of the academic.

The Governing Board have been in close communication with the school and they will also be updating the parents via a newsletter. A Governors' Monitoring visits schedule has been setup with visits and focuses being identified to help inform them of school practice and also help the SLT to be accountable within their roles. A termly head teacher report will be submitted to the governors with information which will help inform the governors of the activities of the term. The governors will be holding a Governors' Surgery for parents to discuss the schools performance, progress and any queries they may have.

Some of the school workshops have been postponed this term in order for the SLT to focus on improving the performance of the school. We endeavour to hold these workshops in the next term in'shaa Allah. Sr Neena's handwriting workshop for parents was received very well, despite the difficulties of time and childcare, therefore we envisage Sr Neena running more parent workshops over the year.

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The assembly schedule has been revised from the end of September 2017 to incorporate learning about other religions, the children have been very receptive to this and further had the opportunity to learn about other faiths and religions on our themed day on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017. During assemblies we will also be focusing on British Values at the start of every term in order to instil in and remind them of tolerance and respect of each other and the society we live in. We are also excited about the spring trips which will be focussing on developing the children's knowledge and understanding of British culture. The children will be visiting and learning about key London landmarks.

In January parents will be receiving a revised timetable. We are excited about the new topic planning and having a dedicated time for each foundation subject, we look forward to the children having dedicated Art/DT sessions enabling progressive skills in this subject.

I hope you will agree that the school has been very busy in the quest for improvement. The children have been fantastic pupils to work with during this exciting time of change.

The SLT would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers at Date Valley School. It has been a demanding time with much scrutiny and deliberation on good practice. We would also like to extend our gratitude to parents, who have continually supported the school during this time, which we recognise is one of anxiety and concern.

I hope that you all have a restful winter break and re-energise yourselves with quality family time in'shaa Allah. I pray we all return with renewed motivation and stamina for the next phase of this year motivated and looking forward to achieving our goal, in'shaa Allah.

May Allah accept our deeds as ibadah and make Him pleased with us. Ameen.

Jazak Allah khair

Naheed Mughal  
Head Teacher  
Date Valley School