

Staff involved: Deputy Headteacher Lindsey Moran, Assistant Headteacher and Subject Leader Leanne Quarry-Ellis and English Link Governor Lyn Eaton

Key discussion points

- At the end of the last academic year KS2 data in respect of Writing indicated 78% of children met the expected standard and comfortably exceeded the national 69% and LA average of 63.2%; however staff acknowledged that the Writing Progress Score of 0.2 needed improvement to reach the standards reached in respect of Reading. Consequently Writing is a high priority this year.
- Parents/carers and others can visit the school's website for comprehensive coverage about the teaching of English from early years to Year 6; information includes classroom approaches and curriculum content as well as recommended reading books for each year group.
- The popular Read to Write model has been successfully used now for 4/5 years and additionally it is customised by staff for the benefit of Liscard children.
- Strategies determined for this year include: using short incidental writes i.e. more opportunities to write; shortening activities to allow more time for writing and the important editing process; monitoring including 'book looks' to identify where improvements are needed such as consistency, using tenses and general coherence.
- There was an opportunity during this link visit to look at some of the children's books in respect of their Writing; books in respect of F2 and Year 3 children evidenced clear improvement from September to January. Two steps in progress are expected by this point in the year, however staff have reported a positive picture of accelerated progress for many children.
- The end of autumn term 2022 data from Target Tracker - Summary Report is seen as positive for Writing with the numbers of children currently below ARE generally just slightly below Reading in most year groups, with the exception of Year 1 where the difference is greater at 9.2% or 8 children.
- Therefore indications are that the strategies for this year are working and do not need adjustment at this stage. Staff have been rigorous and relentless in ensuring that the children get back on track with writing progress in addition to continuing to secure their independence as learners through the phonics training that produces such excellent results in respect of Reading.
- Staff report excellent behaviour and concentration demonstrated by the children in English lessons (which may well extend to other subjects).
- An important improvement factor may be staff confidence (including the ECTs) in making judgements following focused CPD.
- The Assistant Headteacher/ Subject Leader remains a LA and local cluster Moderator and in these key roles is able to bring back and share best practice and information from other schools.
- As part of the Enrichment Programme for Year Groups Minibus Monday offers the opportunity for 15 selected children (on basis of most need eg PP) to visit places of interest, mostly local such as Central Park, Vale Park, Central Library, Pets at Home and other Wirral coastal towns. During these visits the children are encouraged to enjoy and talk about their new experiences, develop their vocabulary and then write about it. Year 5 and 6 children will be experiencing a Blood Brothers drama workshop.

- Staff morale remains good at this point in the term with consistent staffing prevailing across English, while the Early Career Teachers (ECTs) are developing appropriately with the monitoring and support provided by experienced staff.
- **Next visit** Term 3 late June/early July when data available.