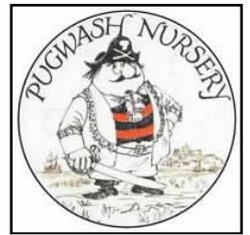




Rye Community Primary School & Pugwash Nursery,  
The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7ND

**Executive Headteacher:** Mr Barry Blakelock MA BA PGCE PGCE  
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Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parent and Families,

**RE: Rye Community Primary Improvement Update – Term 1 (October 2018)**

I write to you with an update about the progress we have made over the first term.

The mood in school has been very much like the weather – warm and sunny which has meant a really good start to the school year for all our children. Whilst we will shortly be publishing a ‘parent-friendly’ version of our improvement plan on our website, here are a few highlights of progress to date:

Teaching in English and Maths has been a real focus for us – making sure pupils get plenty of opportunities to be stretched and challenged. Recent training for teachers on the use of resources has ensured that maths in particular is a very ‘hands-on’ experience so children get to grips with new learning. We will soon be introducing ‘maths meetings’ in classes – an afternoon revisit to the maths met in the morning so pupils have an opportunity to recall and re-apply what they did.

We are looking forward to the introduction of ‘Cornerstones’ – an engaging new foundation curriculum which will ensure pupils experience a wide range of exciting projects. This curriculum is very well supported with materials we will soon be sharing so please take an opportunity when we launch to see what your child is learning in class ([www.cornerstoneseducation.co.uk/projects](http://www.cornerstoneseducation.co.uk/projects)). Similarly, we have recently introduced ‘Busters Book Club’, a new reading scheme, to enthuse youngsters with appealing books and motivate them with a reward scheme. We are very thankful to the local Rotary Club who helped us with the purchase of the scheme.

One thing that has struck us most this year is the standard of work in pupils’ books – we have had a sharp focus on making sure the books reflect the children we know. This has been helped by regular feedback from teachers and assistants in the classroom and in books. Whilst we are proud of our handwriting, our next step is to make that youngsters in key stage 2 continue the great work that goes on lower down the school.

Leaders are undertaking regular walks around the school to see learning on a daily basis. Our new assessment system – Target Tracker – is now well known to us and helps teachers identify individual pupils who might need a little bit extra in class. Families attending this week’s parents’ evenings should have seen a new style report that we will be sending out every half-term to let you know where your children are with their learning. We encourage parents to talk the report through with your child or involve what they have learnt in some of the activities you do at home.

We are really pleased to say that as a result of this step change, pupils are now making appropriate rates of progress and some are making accelerated progress. Whilst we want to increase the numbers making accelerated progress a real change has been in the accuracy of assessment so planning keeps more children on track with age-related expectations. Similarly, attendance and punctuality are both on the rise thanks to the sterling work of the punctuality penguins!

I hope this brief update gives you some insight into the progress we are making as a school. I would encourage you to come to one of our end of term ‘Meet the Leadership’ meetings to hear in person how we are moving forward.

Yours sincerely

Barry Blakelock  
Executive Headteacher

