

Burlington Junior School

Minutes of the Curriculum Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8 March 2023

Present: Mrs Julie Hickman (Chair)
Mr Stephen Arbuthnot
Mr Simon Gilmore
Mrs Mariam Hakim
Mr John Kewley
Mr Naveed Shah

In attendance Mr Matthew Blow, Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Natalie Yendole, Assistant Headteacher
Mrs Katherine Cleaver, Music Subject Leader (Item 4)
Miss Ciara Dunne, Maths Subject Leader (Item 5)
Ms Karen Bridgman, Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Bown, Mrs Campbell, Mrs Utting and Mr West.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2022 were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Music

Mrs Cleaver gave a presentation on music. The following points were noted:

- A presentation is being prepared for Ofsted.
- There is a big focus on assessment.
- Mini quizzes are done every half term with every year group. These highlight the progress being made and also show where children are struggling.
- There continues to be ongoing formative assessments in classes.
- Videos are taken of every class to show how a song is sang at the beginning of the term and how it is performed at the end of the term.
- The children do performances at the Rose Theatre which evidences the progress they make.
- There is an ambitious plan for all children to be able to read music by the end of Year 6. Secondary schools have stated that it helps the children if they start in Year 7 being able to read music.
- A lot of work is being done with building links with secondary schools, especially Coombe Boys and Coombe Girls Schools.
- Year 5 children are doing a joint performance with Coombe Boys School at the Rose Theatre.

- There are set music vocabulary and words which the children should know at the end of each year and there is a lot of work on repetitions.
- Children who play an instrument are asked to send a video of them playing this at home which is then shown in assemblies.
- A teacher from Kingston Music Service is running a Ukulele Club for Year 3 free school meal children every Friday lunchtime for two terms and this has been very successful.
- There is a staff choice choir who meet every Thursday lunchtime with a focus on wellbeing and this is going well.

There was a discussion on the Ofsted presentation. Mrs Cleaver explained that Mrs Yendole has produced a template for all the subject leaders to help them complete a detailed presentation which they share with Ofsted inspectors. This includes an introduction to music at the school, pupil voice quotes, and evidence of all the work that is done on music.

Governors thanked Mrs Cleaver for her excellent presentation.

5. Maths Curriculum Update

Miss Dunne gave an update on maths. The following points were noted:

- Staff and children have a positive attitude to maths.
- A pupil voice was completed and 80% of children said they liked maths.
- Children are aware of their next steps in maths and their targets are in their books.
- Staff give a lot of verbal feedback to the children.
- Teachers are doing maths conferencing with PPG children to close the gaps and to consolidate their learning.
- There is a focus on fluency or targets from previous year groups to recap on previous learning.
- There are regular opportunities for teacher CPD and maths staff meetings are held at least once a term.
- Maths learning walks have been held.
- Drop in sessions are offered to teachers to help with their planning.
- There is going to be more maths CPD for teaching assistants.
- A teaching assistant voice is going to be done in the summer term to gain a better understanding of what areas they want more help with.
- The Ofsted presentation is being completed.
- It is planned to take more photographs and videos of the maths work the children are doing.

Governors queried whether the PPG children missed out on their music lessons due to having their conferencing sessions. Miss Dunne explained that these sessions are only for a maximum of ten minutes and it is not the same children every time. The school ensures that the children do not miss out on their music lessons.

Governors queried whether the gap was closing in respect of the PPG children due to all the work that was being done with them. Miss Dunne explained that the gap is closing but the data is showing that there are differences within year groups. The gaps are mainly due to a lack of fluency in respect of timetables and number bonds. The school is working hard to address the gaps and providing different interventions.

The Deputy Headteacher reported that the lower attainers who achieved working at expected level in KS1 are not making the expected progress which is a challenge for the school. There are also some PPG children who are doing really well.

Governors queried whether maths was embedded in extra-curricular activities. Miss Dunne explained that there is the 144 club when pupils have to do timetables in under five minutes and this has been very popular. She had previously offered a maths club but this was not very popular. The next focus for maths will be enrichment and consideration is being given to doing a primary maths challenge next year with the Year 5 pupils. There are less enrichment opportunities with maths and a maths day was held last year.

Governors asked how the school celebrated children who do not necessarily achieve their targets but work very hard. Miss Dunne explained that the emphasis is about effort and working hard as each child is different. The children may be sent to show their work to different adults, their parents will be told and they are given a lot of praise by all the teachers. The targets set are personal to each child and all the work they do is recognised.

Governors thanked Miss Dunne for her presentation.

6. Curriculum Update

The following points were noted:

- The spring term focus is on developing and maintaining the curriculum.
- There continues to be a review of planning and monitoring by the subject leaders.
- The focus for the summer term will be on obtaining data on retrieval to capture what the children have remembered from different year groups and different subjects to evidence that the work being done is having an impact.
- There continues to be a lot of enrichment opportunities and experiences for the children, including trips and visitors to the school.
- There continues to be a focus on assessment, deep dives and displays.
- Work is being done with subject leaders to help them prepare presentations for Ofsted. It is hoped that this will help them to feel more confident about discussing their subject and identifying gaps.
- Mrs Emma Smith, School Improvement Partner, is visiting the school at the end of the Spring Term and will be doing a science and computing deep dive.
- The school is trying to establish more links with secondary schools to help the children prepare for their transition.

There was a discussion on assessment. Mrs Yendole reported that there has been a lot of work on how the pupils are assessed in respect of the wider curriculum as the school does not want to just collect data. Retrieval tasks are being used across the curriculum so teachers are aware of the gaps and which children are accelerating. Teachers will then adapt their planning to meet the needs of their classes but they need to inform the subject leaders so they know what is happening. The leadership team also continues to review and monitor assessment of the wider curriculum. The Deputy Headteacher reported that the teachers and subject leaders feel this is more meaningful as the focus is more on helping the children to remember more. The tasks are quick to do and it is positive to see the year groups talking about their lessons and which children are accelerating in different subjects.

Governors queried whether the quizzes and other retrieval tasks were unplanned or were the children given time to prepare for these. Mrs Yendole explained that these usually happen in the fifth week every half term. The children are not told in advance about them as they are only take 5-10 minutes to complete and are usually multiple choice questions.

Governors queried whether the secondary schools were receptive to working with the school. The Deputy Headteacher explained that this is an area of development for all the subject leaders. Coombe Boys School and Coombe Girls School are the biggest feeder schools. It is challenging to make these links but the school has a good relationship with the Coombe Schools. Coombe use chrome books all the time and the school is now using these more especially with children who find writing hard.

There was a discussion on the children's transition from the Infant School. The Deputy Headteacher explained that the school has to know what the children have learnt before as it needs to build on this knowledge.

7. Any Other Business

Mental Health Champion

The Chair noted that there was a DfE grant for training for a mental health champion. The Deputy Headteacher explained the funding does not cover the full cost of the accredited courses. He gave details of the work the school is doing on mental health and emotional wellbeing.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 7 June 2023 at 7.00 pm
Agenda: Computing and DT