

Pupil Premium

**I will bless you with a future filled with hope
– a future of success, not of suffering. –
Jeremiah 29:11**



How do we spend our Pupil Premium money at St. Mark's Catholic Primary School?

1 – Identifying the gaps

At the beginning of each term, teachers are asked to complete a profile for each Pupil Premium child in their class. As part of this profile, teachers look at the child's barriers to learning. We use this information to then create RAP plans (Raising Attainment and Progress) for the children looking at what type of interventions are required support the children with their personal barriers.

2 – Using data and research to close the gap

We use the data and research from the EEF (Education Endowment Fund) to inform our interventions. Data from the EEF allows us to understand the strengths and draw backs of interventions and evaluate how successful they are likely to be. We can also read case studies about how these interventions have worked successfully in other schools.

3 - Measuring the impact

We measure the impact of children's learning on a regular basis. Lesson observations, book and planning looks and data are all used. Teachers have a Pupil Progress Meeting each half term with the Senior Leadership Team to discuss these children and to plan for how to continue to support them in the next term. Teachers have regular conversations with TAs and subject leaders and interventions and plans are changed as required. This means that learning is maximised for all children.

Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant work with a small group of children and on a 1:1 basis to deliver quality first teaching focused on individual children's targets.



Phonics Groups



Here's Mrs. Doody delivering a phonics session to a group of Year 1 children. All TAs in school deliver phonics sessions to groups of children in KS1. This means that children are taught in small focussed groups to ensure rapid progress.

1:1 and Small Group Reading Sessions

All children are listened to read on a weekly basis by a Teacher or TA. Staff at St. Mark's regularly change reading books and share a book with the children. During these 1:1 and small group sessions children develop their fluency and comprehension skills.



Word Wasp



Word Wasp is a comprehensive spelling intervention which begins with simple phonetic sounds and gets progressively harder. TAs deliver Word Wasp to identified children support spelling. This intervention is delivered on a 1:1 basis daily.

Here is Mrs. Smalling delivering a 1:1 Word Wasp intervention.

Forest School

Forest School is an inspirational process, that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment. This year we will be developing our school grounds to include a new designated forest school area. We hope that this will encourage many different types of insects and animals to build habitats here. Depending on the year group, children use tools such



as bill hooks, knives and bow saws, build fires and play games that encourage team work and communication.

Reception exploring seasonal changes as part of their outdoor learning sessions.

"I like learning outside"

"We worked together to look at how the leaves had changed"

"I like Forest School"



"I love forest School! I love being outside and I really enjoyed looking for insects"

Year 4 had great fun making Green Men using clay and sticking them to the trees in our playground. They also used classification keys to identify different insects that they had found, used bow saws in pairs and with support from Mrs. Khan and Mrs. Smith gathered around a fire for some reflection activities and a snack!

"I enjoyed using the bow saw. I found it hard at first to get started but we worked together and we were able to cut a wooden disk which I decorated and took home"

Malachai

To support children and families with their well-being, some of the Pupil Premium money has been spent on a Malachai Child and Family Support Worker. The aim of this support is to support identified children and families with their well-being which will improve their learning. Our Malachi school and family support worker is Natalie Bowen.



What our children say about Natalie:

- "She is kind and she listens."
- "Malachi is always ready to help and everyone that works there is always ready to listen and they help with worries. Natalie is really kind and considerate."

What our parents say about Malachi:

- "Support from Malachi has been very useful to us as a family, we have really enjoyed the sessions too, so thank you."

Sessions take place in our newly created Rainbow Room.



Early Years Pupil Premium

Speech and Language Therapy



Here is Stephanie Collins our school Speech and Language Therapist setting up for her Lego Therapy group in school. Lego Therapy has been proven to help develop and reinforce play skills and social skills such as:

- Verbal and non-verbal communication
- Joint attention
- Task focus
- Sharing and turn-taking
- Collaborative problem-solving

Stephanie works with children who require specific speech and language intervention on this programme in school currently and is training our teaching assistants in the process to enable them to deliver this successful intervention for the pupils here at St. Mark's. We identify children who are having difficulties early and given them additional support as language/communication underpins everything.

Phonics

At St. Mark's school, we begin teaching reading with a focus on phonics and we use Ruth Miskin's Read Write Inc (RWI) programme. TAs teach small groups of children from Reception to Year 2. Children who are not making the expected progress in phonics receive a targeted 1:1 session daily delivered by a TA. Children are regularly reviewed and RML assessments are carried out to identify gaps in knowledge.



Write Dance

Write Dance is an approach and a method that provides movement opportunities so children can develop the physical skills needed to develop their handwriting skills. The movement is driven by the music and the underlying principle is enjoyment to build confidence. KS1 staff have been trained to deliver these sessions by a qualified trainer.



Wider Opportunities

Workshops



We were very lucky to have Anchor Education come into school to deliver an assemble and workshops with each class. We learnt songs and drama to help us remember key grammatical concepts.

"I loved singing the songs and George made learning grammar so fun!"

"After the workshop finished, I went home and watched lots of the videos. I really enjoyed them!"

The Happy Puzzle Company came into school and ran workshops with different groups of children. We were given different mathematical puzzles to solve in teams. This built up our resilience, problem solving and teamwork skills.



"I really enjoyed the day. This was the best Maths lesson ever!!"

As part of Black History Month, we had the opportunity to play African drums. We followed the instructor's lead first and then were each given a part to play. We ended the workshop with a performance.



Developing our School Environment



Groups of Reception children have been working hard with Mrs. Smith to plant seeds in the EYFS outdoor area. This group of children will then monitor these seeds each week and water them if needed.

Eco Buddies have been working hard around school ensuring that seeds have been planted and the recycling bins are emptied on a weekly basis. The Eco Buddies work with Mrs. Nellist and Mrs. Smalling to educate children in school on how to be eco-friendly. Last year, they delivered an assembly teaching us all how to look after our environment.

