

# NEW VISION TRUST NEWSLETTER

*Issue 2 Autumn 2020*



## **SHAHED AHMED CEO AND EXECUTIVE HEAD AT ELMHURST**

I am delighted to share our New Vision Trust (NVT) newsletter for staff, parents, Governors and Trustees to keep you informed of developments across our Trust, showcasing the excellent provision to our schools. I am very proud of the work that each school has put in place, including robust risk-assessments to address the current challenges of the Covid -19 pandemic. It has been lovely to see all of our pupils and parents returning with huge smiles on their faces this term after a difficult summer term.

Our Headteachers should be commended on the way that they have managed staff, pupil and parental anxieties. It is now all systems go to support our pupils, many of whom have fallen behind significantly in their education due to the lockdown. Our schools are working hard to give NVT pupils extra support through catch up, booster sessions and tuition.

I am very pleased to report that we were successful in securing almost £1.1 million of government funding from the Conditions Improvement Fund (CIF). This is one of the many benefits of being in an Academy Trust. This money is being used to upgrade doors and electrical work to comply with fire and safety regulations across Vicarage (£234k), Elmhurst (£194k) and to replace the old gas boilers at Nelson (£646k). The bid for Gallions was not successful on this occasion but we will try again next year.

NVT schools continue to make structural improvements to its buildings, including a spectacular new reception office and remodelled entrance area at Nelson which will be ready in November. The large-scale project at Elmhurst to create a Performance Theatre and creative Arts space will be completed by January 2021 and will be available for all Trust schools to use free of charge.

This is an important year for our Trust as we drive ahead to provide the highest quality of education for the 3500 students in our care. I have absolute faith in our staff, who are building on last year's Trust priorities including the ongoing work on revising the curriculum in line with the new Ofsted framework, learning conversations, Maths Mastery and Reading for Pleasure.

Our Trust has benefitted from working with external strategic partners such as David Herbert to sharpen strategic thinking. David has provided the Trust with frameworks to improve children's voice, such as through holding class learning forums, as well as providing a better model for monitoring and improving teaching and learning which is transformative to pupils and staff.

Thank you to everyone for your commitment to making New Vision Trust an excellent Academy Trust. Together we will go further.



## **QUINTIN PEPPIAT CHAIR, NEW VISION TRUST**

It has been a year like no other in my lifetime. New unexpected realities to deal with, both personally and for our schools. I start my few thoughts by expressing the thanks of the Trust to Mr. Ahmed, headteachers, teachers and support staff in our four schools. It has been an unprecedented time. They had to adapt quickly to the shutdown in March. They rose to the challenge. We quickly managed to get an online offer for the children. They have then had to adapt again as we re-opened our schools in a new way where the safety of the children and staff is paramount.

All this time we have kept to high academic standards. The schools have maintained or improved on their performance in the Key Stage two assessments. Yet there is no doubt that the realities of this year and the disruptions it has brought might well affect some of our children's educational performance going forward and we will do everything we can to mitigate this.

There has been significant investment in the schools with a new reception area at Nelson and the new theatre and offices at Elmhurst. I am looking forward to the time when we can sit side by side, squashed in together to watch a performance by the children on their new stage. Let's hope that is in the Summer term at the latest!



## SHAZIA HUSSAIN- HEADTEACHER GALLIONS



Gallions has continued to enjoy success; our children benefit from an inclusive and vibrant curriculum and high expectations which results in a genuine love for learning.

Our outcomes and attainment highlight the quality of our learning, particularly evident at the end of Key Stage 2 where we have seen a year on year rise in attainment - above national levels and demonstrating a clear trajectory of improving performance. Between 2017 -2019, we achieved a 19% increase in Mathematics attainment, a 15% increase in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar attainment and a 10% increase in Reading attainment. We will continue to build on these successes and ensure our children receive the recognition they rightfully deserve.

Curriculum design has been a key priority in recent years, and we have strived to create a curriculum that is progressive and rich. English and Mathematics (adopting a mastery approach in using Maths No Problem and fully embedding synthetic phonics through the Read Write Inc scheme) were prioritised before moving to all subjects across the curriculum. We have worked closely together as a school team, but also alongside colleagues in the NVT, to ensure curriculum subjects develop a depth of knowledge and understanding. And as we move further into the implementation stage we are very pleased to see the direct impact on children's learning and outcomes.

As an inclusive school we are proud of our commitment to providing memorable experiences and rich opportunities for all learners. This can especially be seen in the case of pupils with special educational needs within our greatly enhanced Resource Provision (RP), focussing on the quality of learning, training specialist staff and ensuring that parents feel engaged and supported. This has been hugely successful – and is evidenced by children's learning, parent feedback and our growing reputation for exemplary practice - in Newham and beyond.

Since the pandemic, we successfully provided high quality distance learning as well as pastoral/outreach support to our vulnerable families from our dedicated pastoral care team. Very importantly, we also secured high levels of continued engagement. Gallions was ahead of most schools, having introduced the Google drive the year before as part of our Digital Strategy. Through the many challenges of this time, we were able to continue to serve our school community in the best possible way.

Looking forward to the year ahead, it is wonderful to have begun the year with all children returned to us and our school once again a hub of learning and growth.



## SUKWINDER SAMRA- HEADTEACHER ELMHURST



New Vision schools have been steadily re-crafting an exciting school curriculum which has depth and clearly sequenced steps to reflect Ofsted's quality of education judgment. Elmhurst has removed some extra content so that children have time to master key concepts, with notable successes in History.

Elmhurst's vision is that of high aspiration for all pupils and the work on the 5 cores ( 5 Cs: character, care, confidence, creativity and challenge) has sharpened this focus over the last year by reinforcing expectations.

A more dispersed approach to every area of school life has improved performance, including developing a SEND inclusion team to respond to greater numbers of pupils with autism. I'm delighted that Rosie Gillett, our new SEND teacher is supporting teachers and pupils in KS2 with Liz Turner, in partnership with our SENCO Jane Nash who is targeting support in EYFS and KS1.

Elmhurst's end of KS2 SATs reading and Maths data in 2019 was excellent, demonstrating how well our teachers teach and our children learn. Unfortunately SATs were suspended in 2020 which is a shame since last year's year 6 students were predicted to attain very high results. I am sure with additional catch up that our current year 6 pupils will attain well.

Elmhurst's Parent Teacher Association has been going from strength to strength; the chair Addeel Khan has been channeling his expertise in communications and community activism to further engage our parents. The school is very excited to now be delivering the Jigsaw PSHE scheme to develop better mental and emotional health, something that we need during these uncertain times.

Elmhurst continued to share best practice and innovate, even during the first lockdown. We provided (and continue to do so for those who are self-isolating) first rate remote learning opportunities to our children using the Google Classroom platform, more recently providing live teaching. From a lower baseline we are now a Google school and share resources, planning and systems online to communicate more efficiently. A special thanks to our leadership team, including Nia Silverwood and our Computing lead Siobhan O Toole.

I'm excited about making further improvements in EYFS curriculum and assessment, developing interventions informed by best practice for those pupils who need to catch up and promoting well-being for all. Our staff continue to rise to further challenges, work tirelessly for our lovely pupils and are a credit to the New Vision Trust.





## SHABANA KHAN - HEADTEACHER VICARAGE

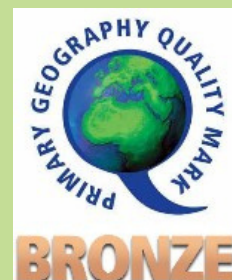


The last couple of years have been very busy for middle leaders at Vicarage Primary School. With the introduction of the new OFSTED framework placing a greater emphasis on the curriculum, subject leaders led by the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher, began a thorough review of the curriculum taught at the school. The work was supported by David Herbert and Gerard Durkin, an independent consultant. Having written the vision for their subject, they have worked methodically to write a coherent sequence of lessons. The work has continued throughout lockdown, culminating in a series of staff meetings during the Summer Term which enabled all teachers to have their input. The next stage of the curriculum review is to look at the impact of the taught curriculum.

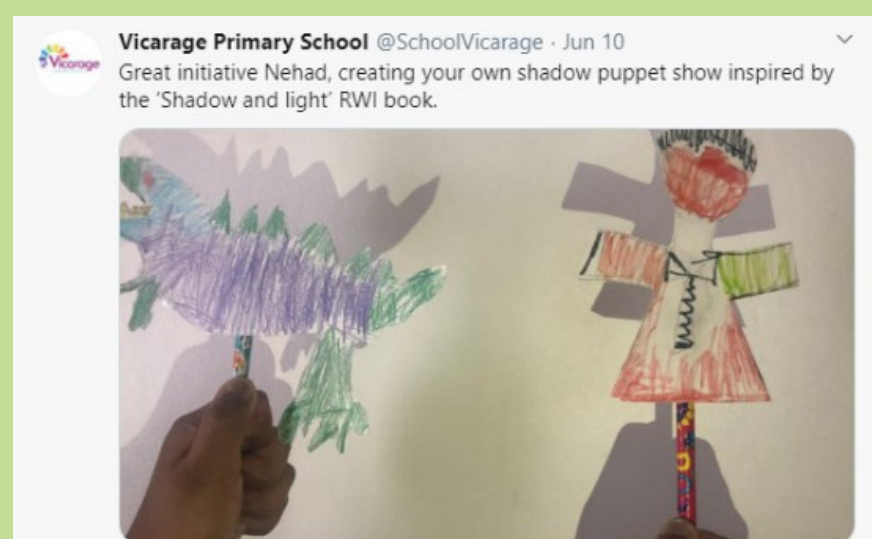
With teaching and learning continuing to flourish during this review of the curriculum, subject leaders were very proactive and keen to celebrate the wonderful work taking place at the school.

This has resulted in the school achieving.....

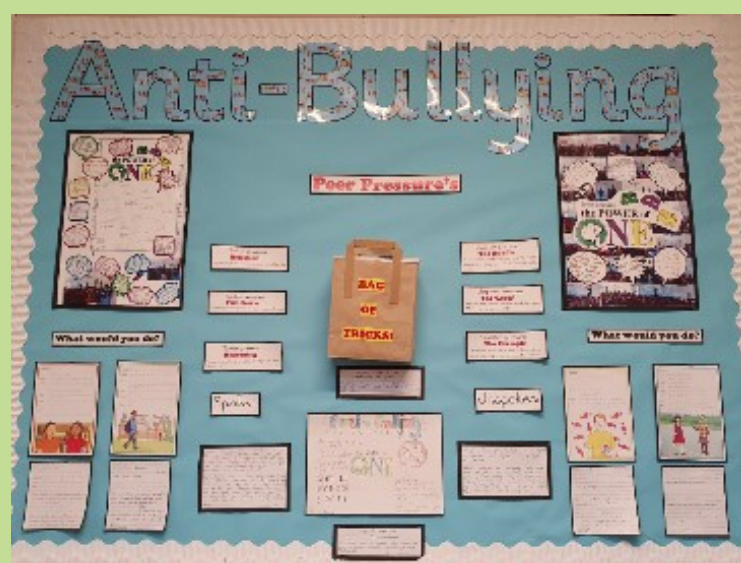
- Gold PE/Sport Kite mark
- Gold History Kite mark
- Bronze Geography Kite mark
- Inclusion flagship school status



The school has also connected with the world of social media in January of this year by joining Twitter. Teachers and parents were keen to showcase work pupils carried out in school and home during lockdown.



Other highlights include themed days which enable focussed curriculum work; an opportunity for the teaching and learning to focus on a particular subject or theme in greater depth. Displays around the school, as well as work in books and the class learning journals demonstrate the quality of work produced.







**Nelson Primary  
School**

Inspiring ambition, Achieving success

## FIONA CULLEN - HEADTEACHER NELSON



The curriculum offer at Nelson is both exciting and enriching, ensuring the school's core values of 'Excellence', 'Resilience' and 'Respect' have meaning and purpose.

The last academic year (2019-20) was successful; our externally verified results were the best results we've had in recent years and delighted us immensely.

During the Autumn Term we were honoured to host Peter Tabechi, the world's best teacher, together with the British Council. We were awarded with the International School Award and our successful links with the British Council continued. At very short notice, the Right Honourable Nick Gibb MP, Minister for School Standards, selected Nelson to showcase a British School, to Ministers from Zimbabwe and Ethiopia, along with DfE, British Council, DfID and the Education Development Trust representatives. Nelson school provided the opportunity for the Minister to showcase the British school system for those interested in educational reforms.

Our links with the British Council have been founded on the Connecting Classrooms Project. For 8 years we have conducted a teacher exchange project whereby two teachers go to St Joseph's Combined Academy, Kenya and two teachers return to the UK. This is continuing professional development for both schools. We were very excited to be chosen to lead the group connecting classrooms. We lead eight other schools to Kenya. Sadly we were unable to host our Kenyan partners due to the Covid -19 pandemic.

Jeymini Wright was appointed to the role of Literacy Specialist for the English Hub. This has had a good impact, not only personally for Jeymini, but for the school. Jeymini's training has helped our school to improve reading standards; the school now has two specialists, as Michelle Ormesher is a Maths Mastery Specialist. This has been one of the benefits of being in the New Vision Trust. In addition, our work with David Herbert and the other MAT schools has been very successful. We have further developed our work around learning conversations and pupils' voice, together with ensuring our middle leaders understand their role. We have also worked on further developing our curriculum in the light of the new OFSTED framework. Our subject leaders have refined their planning and curriculum intent. We were truly grateful to Sukwinder Samra for her training to prepare us for the OFSTED inspection.

Our building is in the process of being improved by a lovely new reception and school office; it will soon be a great asset to the school with all the office staff working together in the same room.

The school has responded well to the Covid-19 pandemic and has been able to open according to the government instructions at each new stage. Our children have returned to school and are happily learning. We have adapted the curriculum to support the accelerated learning needed for children to catch up with what they have missed and have planned a comprehensive package of additional support too.

Photo of Nick Gibb, ministers for Africa and other dignitaries with Nelson Leadership Team:







## SPOTLIGHT ON NVT LEADERS

NVT is fortunate to have additional expertise from the Maths Hub, Teaching School and English Hub. In each issue there will be a focus on different leaders across the Trust. The first is Jeymini Wright, Literacy Specialist for the English Hub from Nelson Primary School.



*I started my role as a Literacy Specialist for the trust in 2019. The role was created to work with schools that were identified as needing support with further developing their teaching of the early stages of reading.*

*It has been a privilege to be welcomed into this team with the opportunity to have a wider impact on developing children's early stages of reading across many different settings. There is a great sense of teamwork with sharing the common goal to give all children the very best start in their education by working with teachers and upskilling their teaching of phonics for EYFS and KS1 in London and Essex.*

*I have learned that driving key messages is highly important to empower educators in supporting early reading. I have enjoyed playing a key role in supporting many leaders in building capacity, implementing a consistent approach and driving sustainable school improvement with embedding their quality first teaching of early reading skills. A few Ofsted quotes demonstrate my impact:*

*OFSTED Report Stamford Primary School 23rd January 2020  
'The support has been highly effective in helping the school improve'*

*OFSTED Report 3rd-4th December 2019 Godwin primary School  
'Staff are well trained in the teaching of phonics. They quickly spot those pupils who need extra support to keep up'*



## SALMA AHMED - TRUST BUSINESS MANAGER

I have been in post for 2 years and have the privilege of working with School Business Managers across our four schools, supporting with good financial and business management. Each of the team has its individual strengths, which make us strong as a collective. There isn't much about Health and Safety that Julie Halliday from Gallions doesn't know; Sahara Shafik at Vicarage is good at finance and has a good head for procurements and has saved the school money and Michelle Pointer from Nelson takes responsibility for finance.

We have all been working hard on our third audit and the process has been smooth all round, all the processes and procedures are in place and the Trust is in a strong position.

## LEANNE LOWE NEW VISION TRUST DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND STRATEGIC LEAD OF THE MATHS HUB



This is my second year in post and I have been working on driving curricular improvements in Maths across the London North East Maths Hub and across the Trust, working one day a week as Director of Learning. I have delivered bespoke training to improve subject knowledge and planning for the New Vision schools as well as standardising and improving the way that maths intervention is carried out so that it fits in with the Maths No Problem scheme used across the trust. After a successful launch of the year 1 MNP intervention programme last year, I am now busy writing the year 2 materials and will train all of the year 2 intervention support staff across the trust and will continue to support each school with its own priorities. This year, I am also working on Elmhurst strategic priorities, helping pupils to develop into better learners by leading on metacognition.



# NEW VISION TRUST POETRY RETREAT

From Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th November 2019, Year 5 students from New Vision Trust schools took part in the innovative Poetry Retreat project, led by Jonny Walker, OtherWise Education, and Adisa the Verbaliser.

Running for its fourth year, the project benefited from a renewed focus on a Writing for Pleasure pedagogy, and this helped to ensure that children developed their creative craft alongside their confidence and sense of adventure. The title of the resulting anthology - *That Should Be A Poem* - comes from the conversations we had when facilitating; children found ways to recognise and spot the poetic qualities of their everyday talk, conversations, memories and anecdotes, and channeled these into some authentic writing.

The children taking part had been identified and selected for a combination of academic and pastoral factors, ensuring that the opportunity was opened up for more vulnerable pupils across the New Vision Trust.

The words of the children captured the spirit of the visit especially well, with a girl from Gallions reflecting on the final night - "On the first day we were all noisy school kids and teachers, and as the time went on we've developed a sense of family."

This was on display in the quality and depth of the children's listening with each other. This culture of respect for each others' worth enabled a considerable deepening of the content, which opened up a space for children and adults alike to engage with a real writing process, in which they explored the National Poetry Day theme of truth.

The 2019 NVT retreat was the culmination of the great efforts of everybody involved. The teachers - Sabera Din from Vicarage, Kathy Dowdeswell from Gallions, Ellie Robinson from Elmhurst and Rob Des Roches (returning for a second innings from Nelson) - were exemplary. Not only did they fully engage with the creative process, but they nurtured and cared for every child, whether or not they attended their school.

Thanks are due to Sukwinder Samra, for her role in overseeing the project from its inception, and to Farida Mayat in the Elmhurst office for her smooth handling of the masses of logistical information.

Writing more personally, this project has become something very unique and special - with lots of interest in the UK and overseas - and the collaborative ethos that makes it happen each year is something that we should all be proud of. Adisa and I look forward to many future collaborations with New Vision Trust, when we can once again reclaim the New Forest as our own!

