

# Beaver Road News

[www.beaverroad.org.uk](http://www.beaverroad.org.uk)

## **What did you learn in school today .....**?

Watching Pete Seeger dueting with Bruce Springsten on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at President Obama's inauguration brought back memories of the famous folk song he wrote that began with those words.

When my children were at school it was usually answered with either 'Nothing', 'We just played', 'Katie hit James' or the classic conversation ender 'It was boring'. It did not seem to get much better at parent's evenings - 'He's very popular with the other children, but ....', 'She could do it if she wanted to but,' and on more than one occasion 'The Deputy Headteacher would like a word with you .....

This week we are holding the Spring term Parent Consultation evenings (Monday and Wednesday). We have listened to parents on ways to improve the quality of the information you receive from School. We are also keen to help you on ways of supporting your child's learning at home.

It is now possible, due to significant improvements in the quality of our data collection and analysis, to more accurately assess every child's progress in school.

At the meeting with your child's class teacher this week, you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's attainment level, rate of progress and what your child needs to do to reach the next level of attainment in English and Mathematics.

We have developed much improved methods of tracking each child's progress term by term. These individual pupil tracking records help us to ensure that we give every child the right support, encouragement and challenge they need to succeed.

Next September we plan to introduce Home to School to Home books to further enhance the partnership we have with parents and carers. We are currently consulting with Governors - in particular Parent Governors - as to the style and content of these books.

## **School improvement - onwards and upwards**

The new arrangements for OFSTED inspections will probably mean that Beaver Road will not have a full inspection for some years to come. It is more likely we may receive the occasional one day OFSTED 'health check' for the more successful schools. In the meantime each term we have a visit from a School Improvement Partner. The SIP is usually an experienced education professional (e.g. former or serving Headteacher, local education adviser/inspector) who has passed a rigorous national assessment programme before qualifying as a SIP. The SIP met with the School Leadership team and Governor representatives at the end of last term.

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Her published report states:

*'It is the SIP's view that the school has made very good progress. The strategies and interventions put in place are providing an enriched and personalised curriculum for all pupils'*

*'The Headteacher has a clear and aspirational vision for the school. This is to move from good to outstanding. The appointment of two assistant heads has strengthened the leadership of the school. The Headteacher is well supported by a strong team, clearly focused on providing an outstanding level of challenge for all pupils. Most staff are now skilled in the use of all the pupil performance data on the tracking sheets and use the data to ensure that their pupils make more than the expected progress. More detailed analysis of the performance of individual pupils and groups of pupils is undertaken on a half-termly basis and regular conversations are held to discuss what the data is showing. Pupils have meetings with their teachers so they are well supported to achieve. The SIP saw evidence that the Leadership Team have high expectations of all staff. The Headteacher leads the team in a dynamic way. He has a clear and inspired vision for the school, which he enthusiastically transmits to the team.'*

*'The governing body is strong in the support and challenge it offers to the school. They are experienced, questioning, supportive and when necessary critical. The school welcomes this and sees it as an important factor that is instrumental in raising standards.'*

*'It is the SIP's view that the school's processes for setting trajectory targets is outstanding and there is a proven record of the way the school has the skills to analyse data and to use this effectively to raise attainment and standards in the school'*

*'The SIP saw evidence of thorough analysis and appropriate strategies to further raise attainment of all children. Progress in all areas reflects a picture of a school that is self-challenging and has set an ambitious target to move from good to outstanding'*

## **Good Neighbours**

Thank you to the good neighbours of the School for their vigilance on Saturday morning when the school alarms were triggered.

Beaver Road Primary School is a vital part of Didsbury's community - past present and future.

It is reassuring to know that we have people (not just parents and carers of children), who take an active interest in looking after the School and its property.

David How

Headteacher