Review of EBT support 2023-24

Project Name: Nurturing a Love of Reading

CONTEXT

We remain extremely proud of our partnership with the East Brighton Trust. The benefits of this valuable community link was one of the ones recognised by OFSTED in October 2022:

"Leaders have forged strong partnerships with other local schools and organisations to make sure that all pupils have a wealth of opportunity to develop their skills and talents." *OFSTED October 2022*

With the success in previous years of the literacy project, and the EBT's investment in our school library, we maintained **reading** as the main focus for the expenditure of the grant in 2023-24. We were delighted to be awarded a grant for 2023-24. This helped to fund reading professional development and resources last year, as well as resourcing our Phonics and Accelerated Reader scheme for the children.

Reading

The grant enabled the school to invest in the **"Accelerated Reader"** scheme, which has served to promote a culture of reading within the school. We use this programme to regularly monitor children's quiz averages and set them targets in line with comprehension performance.

The children really enjoy the challenging element of Accelerated Reader as they strive to complete the quizzes. The scheme has opened up a range of texts for the children to read- matched to their level through "zone of proximal development" assessments.

The funding has enabled us to provide many exciting and rewarding activities are arranged in school to promote the pleasure and knowledge that can be gained from books, i.e. 'World Book Week'. Book Weeks include opportunities to bring books alive through planned activities and reading sessions in mixed classes. Where possible, visits by: published authors, skilled story tellers, performances by professional theatre groups are organised in addition to making books and the use of drama to illustrate the texts studied.

Pupil Progress

This has led to ongoing success for our young readers. The school was **one of only 3 schools nationally** involved in a University Study in to effective teaching of reading, owing to the school's progress scores for disadvantaged pupils being significantly above National (2023)

- ✓ Our school's Reading progress score increased by 6.20 from -2.32 in 2021/22 to +3.88 in 2022/23
- ✓ **Our Reading progress score of +3.88 is 3.85 higher than the National cohort, who have a Reading progress score of +0.03.**
- ✓ **Our school rose 80 places in the percentile rankings between 2021/22 and 2022/23, from 86 to 6.**
- ✓ **69% of disadvantaged pupils achieved EXS in reading 9% higher than LA and national**
- ✓ 19% achieved GDS compared to 17% national/LA
- ✓ **+4.4 progress** for disadvantaged compared with **-0.9 national**

Progress in other class using Accelerated Reader

- ✓ **76.47% of children made at least expected progress**
- ✓ **58.82% of children made better than expected (accelerated) progress**

PUPIL VOICE – what our Year 6 children say about Accelerated Reader

“It was nice, it gave me harder books to challenge me.”

“The quizzes are fun because the questions are interesting.”

“The quiz questions are on ‘on point’. They ask details about the book.”

“It helps a lot – gave me a book I really enjoy.”

“It is accurate at choosing the right books.”

“It extended me and convince me to keep on going with my reading.”

Key aims for 2024- 25

Reading

1. To embed **Accelerated Reader** into Key Stage 2 practise
2. To continue to develop impactful interventions that aim to close gaps in pupils knowledge and extend understanding into GDS
3. To provide a language rich environment for children to develop phonetic decoding skills and greater opportunity for early reading in Reception
4. To develop early oracy through whole school initiatives and parent engagement
5. To continue to develop CPD opportunities for staff in relation to reading and the teaching and consolidation of key skills for EAL learners

Photos of children reading their Accelerated Reader books in our Library – funded by East Brighton Trust!