



# News from Edmondsley Governors

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the Autumn Term issue of the Governor Newsletter and to a new school year. To those of you who are new to our school we wish you a very warm welcome and hope you have a happy and successful time. To those of you who are returning, welcome back and we hope you had a good break over the summer.

The Autumn period for the governing body is typically centred around [agreeing improvements for the school and making sure we know how to keep on track with improvements and measuring these.](#)

One of our key focus areas for this year is to increase the number of children who are on track to meet or exceed the attainment expected for their age group. In other words, children to achieve academically, what is expected of them for their year group. [Expected, in this context, is an educational term this can be straightforward for some but a huge challenge for others. All our children are individual.](#) Excellent teaching, learning and assessment is fundamental to children achieving this, but there are also other contributory factors which can either have a positive or detrimental impact on our children staying on track to achieve. An area where our parents can really help us is: making sure children are punctual and their attendance at school is high.

[We are being told that OFSTED will be focusing less on final results and more on broad curriculum being well taught. This is very encouraging news, we shall monitor how that is implemented and inform parents as we find out more.](#)

Finally, I would like to congratulate all those involved for our achievements last year.

As always, we welcome your comments or feedback and you can get in touch by writing to me at the school.

**Stuart Hogarth, Chair of Governors**

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## Changes to the Governing Body

Welcome to **Mr Ben Mander**, our new Staff Governor. Mr Mander is our Year 5/6 teacher and has amongst other duties, lead responsibility for History and Science within the school.

We are currently recruiting for governor vacancies and will inform you of new appointments in due course. If you are interested in finding out more about The Role of a Governor then please visit the school website for further information or, indeed, get in touch with other governors via the school office.

## Outcomes for Children - Current academic 'standards'/achievements

As governors we join with parents in expecting the very best for our children and we all want our children to be given the best education possible. The measurement of pupil and school performance has taken a dramatic turn in the last couple of years. The government has now set a 'standard' which it expects all children to achieve. This standard is variable year on year and it is based on the previous year's data.

I am pleased to share the academic 'standards'/achievements from the previous academic year at Edmondsley:

**Year 1 phonics – 91%** The national 'standard' for early years provision is consistently above the National Average 2018 of 76%.

### Key Stage 1 2018 Standards

Reading 65% (below National Average) Greater Depth 27% (in line with National Average)  
Writing 54% (below National Average) Greater Depth 23% (above National Average)  
Maths 62% (below National Average) Greater Depth 15% (below National Average)

### Key Stage 2 2018 Standards

Reading, writing and maths combined 63% (64% National Average)

Reading 70% (75% National Average) Greater Depth 30% (in line with National Average)  
Writing 78% (78% National Average) Greater Depth 7% (well below National Average)  
Maths 67% (76% National Average) Greater Depth 19% (in line with National Average)

As governors we are [faced](#) with numerous statistics on school and pupil performance and we are careful not to view them out of context. We are a small school with average sized classes - [one child often equates to around 5% which shows the](#) effect on the overall results. Under-performance does not necessarily mean that a child is not academically able. As we all know, some very able children struggle with tests and examinations and there are many other factors which can affect a child's performance including unauthorised absences from school. [If you're concerned](#) your child's class teacher will regularly update you on your child's progress. These statistics are [used to gauge school performance compared with the national average. As effective and active governors we monitor and see](#) improving performance across the school. [Where we don't see this, it is our role to challenge the school on what they will be doing to improve.](#)

## Key Priorities 2018/19

At Edmondsley Primary and Nursery School staff are always striving to improve the education and provision for the children. Every year key priorities are highlighted on [the our](#) School Improvement Plan:

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare

- To increase attendance of some groups of children
- To foster and sustain resilience within the school environment.

### Curriculum and achievement of pupils

- To increase the number of children who are on track to meet or exceed the attainment expected for their age group through developing a maths mastery approach across the school and Guided Teaching which is well matched to pupils in English.

### Leadership and management

- To ensure we maintain a broad and balanced curriculum and subject leaders lead their subjects well as a result of excellent knowledge of how their subject is taught across the school.

### Early Years Provisions (EYFS)

- To increase the opportunities for children to learn from positive relationships (speaking/making relationships/managing feelings and emotions, with a focus on communication and language.
- Increased opportunities for parental engagement at school events, workshops and other school activities.

## Curriculum

The school is proud of the creative and interesting Thematic Curriculum it provides for the children. At Edmondsley Primary and Nursery School, we believe that outstanding education is a result of a

love for learning. We aim to make learning meaningful, relevant, engaging and memorable. We want our children to be inquisitive and enjoy their education whilst developing a desire for lifelong learning. You can find out more about the school's thematic curriculum policy on our website: [www.edmondsley.durham.sch.uk](http://www.edmondsley.durham.sch.uk)

The staff at school ensure that the children [receive](#) a well-rounded and interesting curriculum that will prepare them for the future. The school will continue to give children a wide range of experiences including Forest School visits, School Sports activities and other enrichment days.

## Premises Update

We are always looking to improve our school building and surrounding area. Over the summer, we had new electrics completed throughout the school and as a result of previously identified areas for improvement, development of our nursery grounds has begun. This will include a Water Play area and Construction Area to provide further opportunities for children to improve communication, [social](#) and language skills. We [expect](#) that this project will be completed [after the Easter 2019 break](#).

## Parent Survey Results 2018

Thank you to everyone who responded to our annual survey at the end of the summer term. It is great to see that the overwhelming majority of parents agree that their child/ren enjoys school, feels safe, the teaching is good and overall parents and carers are happy with their child/ren's experience at Edmondsley Primary and Nursery School.

The views of pupils are also very important to us. We recently conducted a similar survey with our Key Stage 1 (Reception to Year 2) and Key Stage 2 (Year 3 to Year 6) children and it was fantastic to hear that our children thoroughly enjoy their time at Edmondsley: a friendly environment, where they feel safe, enjoy their lessons, and know what they need to do to be successful. Their favourite lessons were Art, Maths, English, PE, Music (Ukulele) and Science. Their favourite outside activities were OPAL, football, swimming, basketball, after school clubs, PE. There was such a low response from children across the whole school when they were asked what they disliked about school; a positive in itself that they struggled to highlight something!

The school has been focusing on the theme of Friendships. This was a result of both Pupil and Parent Questionnaires where a small minority of parents felt that their child didn't have friends/fell out with friends often. Aspects of personal, social and citizenship are taught throughout our school in specific lessons. If you attended a recent assembly, you will hopefully have been given a flavour of the types of things which are taught, discussed and celebrated. In addition to this, all staff, including Lunchtime Supervisors have completed training on the use of 'Restorative Approach' to ensure all children feel that any issues which may have arisen throughout the whole day have been fully resolved. We would welcome any feedback regarding the theme of friendships or our Whole staff school 'Restorative Approach.'

The Governors and all of the school staff are dedicated to ensuring that all our children are safe, well supported, achieve their full potential and enjoy school. If you have any concerns, or if you have something which you are pleased about, then let us know. The Governors and the school welcome your comments and suggestions, and your feedback is extremely valuable and much appreciated.

Editor: Tracy Cummings (Vice Chair)