

17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

## Summer term welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

First of all, welcome back after a lovely, long Easter break. I know we had lots of chocolate hunts, day trips, cinema visits and exciting adventures over the holidays, and the children all seemed excited and ready for summer term during my assembly this morning, which is fantastic.

Today is National Offer Day, which is when children nationally hear which primary school they will be attending in September. I'm delighted to share with you that, for the first time in a few years, we have a full cohort in Reception. In fact, more than ten additional families named Bowling Green Academy as their first preference school for September – it is such a shame we cannot fit them all in! In total, over 70 children were preferred for our school, which is amazing and is indicative of Bowling Green's positive reputation. A huge thank you to our families for sharing 'good news' about our small school, and also to every member of staff for their hardwork and dedication, which is always so vastly appreciated. We cannot wait to meet all our new children but first, we are all excited to make sure our Year 6 children have a brilliant final term with us!

I have shared with you all throughout the year details of our school improvement plan's three broad targets, a common feature in school leadership and development, and below are some further updates.

### **1. Children's speaking, listening and communication (oracy)**

Last term started with our successful [Lily and the Snowman](#) whole-school writing focus, which children really enjoyed from Reception to Year 6. Our children are continuing to amaze us with their questioning, debate, presenting and role-play skills across the curriculum, which we are noting as having beneficial impacts upon our children's love of reading and writing standards.

You will also remember our brilliant World Book Day 'The Word Collector' key text when all our children and staff dressed up as words to create a human dictionary. Our love of new vocabulary and effectively using words is becoming well-embedded at Bowling Green in all parts of the day and across all curriculum subjects. In fact, Sophie Edgar and Roger Davies, our visiting author and illustrator, noted how articulate our children were, which was brilliant to hear.

### **2. Further embedding our curriculum**

We continue to be really proud of our Bowling Green Academy curriculum following some significant changes when we moved to single-age year groups. Last term, subject leaders (at Bowling Green, all our teachers lead at least two subjects) looked closely at 'threads' that run throughout subjects – for example, in Geography, what do map skills look like in Reception all the way up to Year 6? In RE, how does children's understanding of Islam build as children get older? In French, how are we developing early listening and language skills so children retain words, phrases and sentences to say and write by the end of Key Stage 2?

We are also continuing to develop our assessments across the curriculum in inventive and exciting ways, as well as introducing even further challenge ('Dong Nao Jins') into some complex subjects across school, from Reception up to Year 6. Furthermore, in recent conversations with pupils, subject leaders found that pupils were remembering high levels of clear and precise details about subjects and could all talk about areas of learning they were particularly enjoying.

### **3. Supporting personal development**

Staff training (both in-house and from external agencies) is continuing to enhance our understanding, e.g. on neurodiversity, and we continue to work closely with the Mental Health Support Team (as well as our new pupil-led Wellbeing Working Party) to do this. We also continue to have a detailed and varied assembly calendar, which links to both the [British Values and Bowling Green's KITE Values](#). During spring term, we addressed issues such as Chinese New Year, Children's Mental Health Week, Water Safety, LGBT History Month and Safer Internet Day all in a child-friendly way. Our new Eco Warriors are also doing a fantastic job driving positive change. Moving forward, during summer term, we are planning a big 'push' on manners and respect.

Mrs Deighton and I have also led some parent/carer workshops about further support that is available for families, for example, if a child has additional needs or if they are eligible for free school meals. I hope you will agree that our [clubs offer](#) is also particularly strong across school – this term we are offering seven clubs, ranging from sign language to cricket. We are also growing our [community links](#), such as with the local church, Food4Families and with Stainland Parish Council, particularly via the new allotment.

[Last time I shared details about school improvement](#), I shared some recent visitors to school. I am pleased to share some further quotes from spring term:

*"Pupils continue to benefit from the strong teaching of reading across school from phonics in Reception and KS1 to teaching prosody in KS2... enabling pupils to understand key concepts. These practices are now well embedded into everyday teaching at Bowling Green. There is high ambition for all pupils and this is shared by all staff..."*

*"The visit to Reception was a delight - the pupils benefit from a bright, purposeful and engaging learning environment. The children were highly motivated, deeply engaged and sustaining high levels of concentration."*

**Dani Worthington, Director of School Improvement at Great Heights Academy Trust**

*"The atmosphere around the school – in class and outside – was calm and all interactions demonstrated good relationships. Where possible in the classes I visited, I talked to children as they worked. I felt that they displayed confidence, and I could see that the teaching was actively encouraging oracy, which is a key focus."*

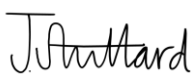
**Paul Miller, Governor Vice Chair**

*"All staff have an increased understanding of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and this can be seen from improved outcomes, the learning environment and the excellent provision which is now in place... The leaders in the school provide high quality support for all pupils, including those with SEND. The progress for all pupils is excellent."*

**Gill Robinson OBE, independent Educational Advisor**

As ever, we all mean it at school when we thank you for your support. I am continually thrilled by the hard work and friendliness of children, and by the dedication from all members of staff. I am certainly looking forward to a bright and positive summer term.

With best wishes,



Principal