

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

Dear Parents & Guardians,

## **Re: End of Year Summary and General Information**

Before we head off into the summer I'd like to share with you the progress made in this academic year.

Since I arrived in January, there have been many changes. The academy trust, school governors and I knew we had to implement a rapid and robust response following two Ofsted reports grading Goosewell as 'Requires Improvement' combined with pupils' SATs results being below national averages for several years. I believe our children deserve better.

Why are these changes important? The changes taking place are not just to ensure the school has 'good data', the changes we are making are to ensure our children are fully prepared for the next stage of their education, regardless of their starting point. For this to happen, we as a school, need to ensure that children make progress every year.

Implementing these changes has required a huge amount of time, determination and energy from all involved and I am proud of what we have achieved so far.

Here's a list of some of the changes:

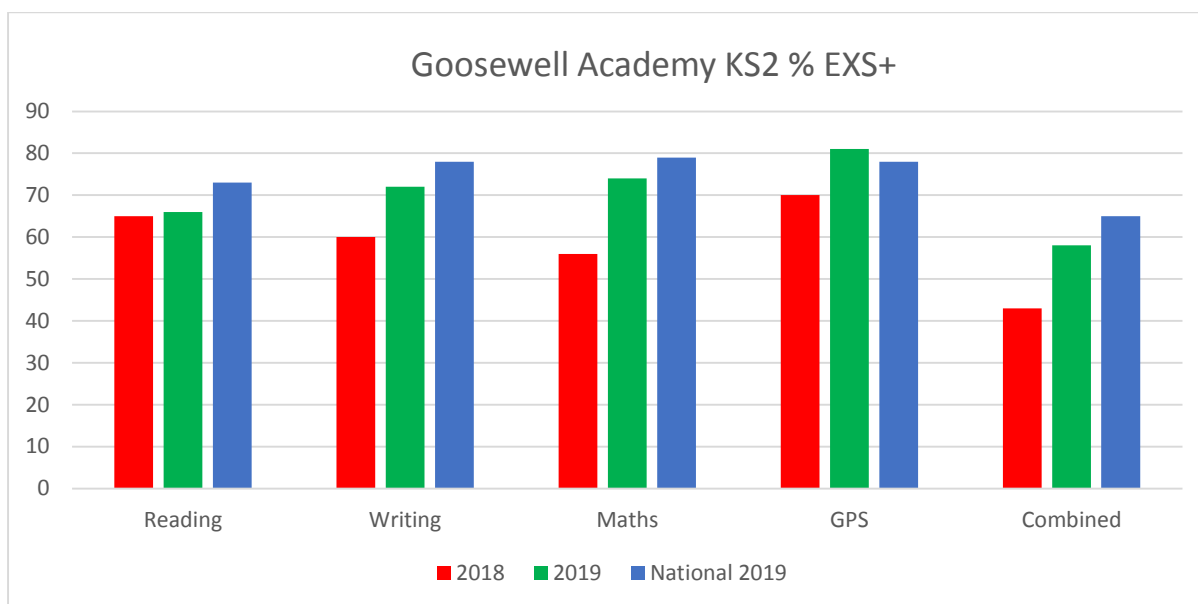
- New Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and development of the environment
- Revision of the curriculum and how the curriculum is delivered
- Introduction of houses and house points using Class Dojo
- Weekly Virtue assembly
- Expectation of a consistent approach to the teaching of reading, writing & maths in KS1 & KS2
- Daily reading for pleasure across the school
- Introduction of Read, Write, Inc (RWI) in EYFS & KS1
- Introduction of Accelerated Reader across KS2 and Y2

Excitingly, we are already seeing improvements from these changes; below are the results from Year 6 SATs, comparing this year to last year and to national average.

\*EXS+ (Meeting Expected standard or above)

\*GPS (grammar, punctuation & spelling)

\*Combined (this is the % of children achieving a pass in reading, writing & maths)



Year 6 SATs aside, we've also seen successes across other key groups:

- Foundation year finished with 71% of children achieving a Good Level of Development, in line with national average.
- 83% of Year 1 passed their phonics screening, again in line with national average; so important given phonics is the gateway to literacy.
- The children in Year 2 have also done incredibly well with 76% passing Reading, 73% passing writing and 77% passing Maths and all these results exceed national average! What a terrific platform for these children to start Key Stage 2 from.
- Year 2 results were also externally moderated and confirmed by the local authority and children's work was taken away to provide exemplary materials for other schools

I'm grateful to my teaching team and support staff team for their positive response to change and adaptability. They are implementing changes to maximise the learning potential and school experience for all children and welcome your full support.

Safeguarding of children has also been a key focus, to ensure your children are safe in our care. We need to assess and reduce risks at any school event attended by adults, balanced against supporting participation from parents and families. Sports Day was a good example of trying to find that balance. We've listened to constructive feedback from parents and already planned next year's Sports Day to make the event as safe and enjoyable as possible for all family members.

We have also reviewed the topics being delivered across the school, keeping relevant and successful topics whilst introducing new themes and I can confirm that Year 4 will continue to have a residential visit to London. Further details of the topics the children will be covering can be found on our new website, which might be live by the time this letter goes out. To help aid and support parents with the changing curriculum and how the curriculum is being delivered we will host

parent workshops in the autumn term focusing on phonics, maths, reading and writing.

I am relishing the opportunity to get out of the planning room and meet more of you. Goosewell's vibrant, strong community was one of the most striking aspects of the school on my first visit and I feel this is a hugely important aspect of helping move the school forward. I will be hosting some informal sessions (tea and cake anyone?) as well as looking at more structured forums – possibly the formation of a parent's council. There's plenty of food for thought over the summer, and plenty to look forward to.

Finally, I would like to say thank you and farewell to Mr Griggs, Mrs King, Mrs Popplestone, Mrs Bishop and a special thanks to Mrs Soper who will be leaving us. We all wish them the very best for the future and do hope they will come and visit.

If you have any suggestions or concerns, please do come and speak to me or any of the team at Goosewell.

Wishing you a fantastic summer,



Mr James Gentile  
**Headteacher**