

THINKING...

A Strong Beginning



My start within the Federation has been a positive one, despite the obvious challenges the pandemic brings. I have been able to start building a picture of the short and long term needs for each school and the Federation as a whole. My priority has been on meeting as many staff as possible and this will continue this half term. I have been working closely with the Heads of School to develop a narrative about where the school is on its improvement journey and a vision for its next steps. This includes looking at budgets, systems, staffing, premises, governance, promotion, accountability etc. I am delighted to be working with you and I have had a great start so far. Thank you for making me feel so welcome. I hope you can appreciate the branded umbrellas which have brought much joy to the SLT's! **Robin Warren**



What we've been working on....

At Daubeney

At Daubeney, the Spring 1 half-term has been action packed! We have successfully provided a mixture of in-school and online learning and accommodating approximately 20% of our pupils at school during this half-term. The children in school have benefited from working with familiar adults on a range of curriculum content as well as joining in the online and live sessions. At home, the class teachers have been working collaboratively, developing week on week the Daubeney remote offer. This has been adapted following our discussions with the other Heads of School, in our Senior Leader Team meetings, through monitoring by subject leaders and feedback from our children, staff and parents. Balancing the diverse needs of our community has been a challenge but one we have risen to! There has been much positive feedback from all stakeholders and we are pleased with the social interaction the children are having as part of the provision. Mr Warren has also been able to look at provision across the Federation. Fortunately, we have only had one case of COVID-19, but we have had to carefully balance our staffing to ensure we meet our community needs



We begin Spring 2 with our eyes on the return to school and our next school improvement steps. Behind the scenes, wonderful work has been done by our subject leads to raise the standards of Teaching and Learning in all subjects. We have continued to work with Hackney Education and have a range of provision in place for the coming term including further support for reading. A big well done to everyone for their hard work and particular thanks to everyone who does their part for Team Daubeney. We are looking forward to welcoming back our children to school full time this half term. As a school we are indebted to our staff who have been both supporting children on site and at home, the parents for being excellent teachers and the children. You are all super stars.



What we've been working on....

Lauriston

The school have been a wonderful community, quickly opening to a large number children in school and launching a brand new remote learning offer at home.

In school, the loyal and hard working team have provided a range of high quality learning opportunities and care for the children. Our community have been really positive about the children being in school and it is lovely seeing the children happily come to school. Our Senior Leadership Team and subject leaders have been constantly developing and refining out remote learning so that it provides a meaningful experience for the children. A big thank you for all your positive feedback and suggestions.

We have seen wonderful examples of togetherness and a real drive to provide the very best education for all during this latest phase of society's battle against COVID-19. Every part of the school has played a vital role in supporting our community during this time. This has been alongside personal sadness, bereavement and ongoing Covid and associated illnesses. Our staff are a resilient and determined bunch!

Well done to our amazing teachers working tirelessly at home to provide high quality learning and feedback, the incredible support staff and non-class based teachers who have been in school every day working with high numbers of pupils and providing brilliant provision; the site staff and cleaning team who have gone above and beyond to ensure the school is open and safe for pupils and staff, the admin team who have been a huge support to the local community, to our parents and carers for your feedback and hard work and of course the Lauriston children. Well done. This positive attitude in the face of such challenges is the thing that really stands out and makes you proud to be part of the team.

We turn our attention to the return to school plan and our continued drive for school improvement. We have a number of ideas and plans in place for the remainder of the year to make Lauriston even better. We cannot wait for our children to return to normal and keep their learning moving forward. Here's to an exciting Spring second half!



What we've been working on....

At Sebright

Sebright has had a new Head of School join—Ms Corpe—and she has settled in brilliantly. Her and the team started the term with energy and pace. We are so impressed with the staff, parents and children for their incredible support during this very challenging time. We have had 13% of our children learning in school with the majority being in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2, including children with some of the most significant needs in the school. Our children have been brilliant. We have been able to focus on their social skills and ensuring a thorough coverage of the core curriculum. A big well done to the staff who have provided support, care and nurture throughout this time. We have had some great fun too. We have some very talented artist amongst us and they have helped the children produce some very beautiful work.



At home, our children have been working very hard with remote learning which we have been developing week on week. Our Senior Leadership Team, subject leaders and class teachers work collaboratively to provide a high quality offer. Our parents have been very complimentary about the remote learning and are really enthusiastic about the live sessions that the teachers are providing daily.

As you know, it is not easy to work at home, so a big thank you to the teachers who have worked so hard home to produce some really creative online learning, developing and improving the online provision weekly. We have managed to setup and loan to parents over 50 Chromebooks and we have received some lovely comments and thanks from the parents and children. In addition, we have provided paper packs for parents to collect to support their children at home.

A big thank you to the Admin Team, Barry the Site Manager and our cleaning and kitchen teams for keeping the school running smoothly. Whilst you have been busy at home, we have been working on the EYFS outside area ready for the children to return to some in-house renovations!

Finally, well done to the whole Sebright Family for all their dedication and hard work to support our children and their families during this unprecedented time. What an amazing team you all are.

Our focus shifts now to the return to school for our children and our ongoing school improvement development. Here's to an exciting rest of the term.



Return to School

We await confirmation from the Government with regards a possible 8th March start. This is obviously subject to rates of infections etc. and we are likely to find out along with the rest of the country! The Heads of School and I are keen to have as many children return as soon as possible, provided there are no particularly challenging restrictions. The Heads and the SLT's have already drafted some plans and scenarios which will be enacted as things develop. I will keep you posted as and when things develop! Watch this space folks.



Term Dates

The Federation term dates have been set for 2021-2022. These are available on the school websites.

Website Development

The website team are working on some new designs for our school website which I hope to launch at the start of the summer term. This begins an exciting new time for us as a Federation....next up....a Federation name competition!



Parent Coffee Session

It was lovely to 'meet' you earlier this term.

This gave me a chance to introduce myself and outline my plans for the Federation. A half term in, I have learned a great deal about the schools and have been able to share and discuss this with the Heads of School in a positive and purposeful way. Collectively, we have some exciting times ahead as we plan to further improve the schools and attract new families. My aim thus far has been to communicate what we are doing, but also have an eye on the future. We are all keen to see the children return to normal and it is at this point that we can really get going. I also look forward to meeting more children and more parents at the gates in the not to distant future. Stay safe and well all.

Please make sure...

- You read our regular correspondences. This will take place through emails, letters, texts and posts on each school website.
- Follow each school's twitter accounts:
@SebrightPrimary;
@LauristonSchool;
@DaubeneyHackney and our new one from me....
@DauSebLauExecHT

Governance... has had a good start this term, focusing on the financial picture across the Federation and our local school committees. I am committed to an open and transparent relationship with Governors, staff and parents and carers. This is an important relationship to establish early on. Here's a few updates from our key people:



Will Emms—Chair of Governors

What a way to start the year! I want to say a massive thank you to each and every one of you for all your parts in keeping the show on the road. The schools have worked together, faced the challenges, listened to all the feedback, learnt lessons, adapted to the ever changing situation admirably. And all this on top of welcoming a new Executive Head in Mr Warren and Ms Corpe stepping into the Head of School role at Sebright. The staff, parents and children should recognise and celebrate what you have achieved together. It's been no mean feat. I'm sure you know what a huge part staff play in maintaining the sense of community around each school and also the strength of community evident across the Federation. I've just been out on my government constitutional and passed Daubeney School. The displays in the windows looked amazing, joyous and hopeful, but the one above struck me in particular. I really hope to see you all soon!

Madeleine Davis—Chair of Lauriston Committee

On behalf of the Lauriston committee I want to say a huge thank you to all the staff for their incredible efforts. We've had regular updates from Mr Harris about the successes and the challenges of this extraordinary half term and have been so impressed with how everyone has worked together to support and enthuse children whether they are learning at home or in school. The art challenges, music lessons, assemblies, update videos and celebrations of children's work have been brilliant at keeping a sense of community through difficult times. We are looking forward to an exciting rest of the year.

Laura Stacey—Chair of Sebright Committee

It has been enlightening to hear how Sebright staff are pulling together to support the pupils in continuing their learning both in school and remotely. The Sebright Governors would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and the wonderful way in which they are supporting each other and going the extra mile throughout this difficult time. Special thanks too to the Admin team in putting together the home learning packs. Keep up the good work, we are proud of you. We look forward to the further development of Sebright's provision for the remainder of the year.

Marisa Childs—Chair of Daubeney Committee

Firstly I hope you are all well and safe during these very extraordinary times. Reflecting on the first lock-down versus this one. In the first lock down my main concern along with Mr Logan's was ensuring all the children in school were in their bubbles, whilst also ensuring all teachers also felt secure in school. It was challenging at times but with good planning and being constantly in solution mode, we got through it. I was especially proud of the quality of the assemblies that so many of you took part in. This time I feel the home-school package has been easier for the team to execute and I hope you are all experiencing the same at home. As a Governor one of my favourite parts of my role is attending Governor Days, where I get to visit school when it is in full operation. Until then as a committee we will continue to both challenge, but mainly support Mr Logan and his team during these times.