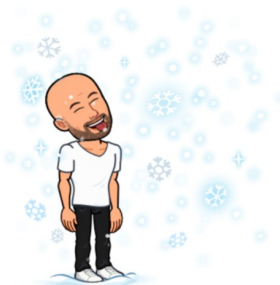


Blossom Federation

Daubeney, Sebright and Lauriston



Executive Head Teacher Update



Issue 4

7th January 2025

Dear Parents & Carers

A big welcome back to the start of the Spring Term. I hope you have all had a restful and relaxing break with your friends and families. There was a lot of excitement from all in the run up to the holidays, but I hope you all managed some downtime, some long walks, Pyjama days and fun and laughter as well as good food!

Our INSET Days yesterday all focused on the individual school development priorities. This included some working to support our lowest attainers, attachment theory, medical needs updates, safeguarding training, assessment as well as preparation and expectations for the term ahead. It was a productive day across the Federation.

I began the day with a whole federation session about **Storytelling**. You will recall that last year, I went on a research trip to Vancouver with some other Hackney Leaders. There was a great deal which was beneficial from this visit in terms of seeing good practice, sharing ideas and having the opportunity to reflect on our current provision and planning. A big theme though, which is something that is rippling through other Hackney provision, is the Storytelling element. I am passionate about this and have designed a plan for the Federation over the coming months. See overleaf to hear a little bit more on this.

In other news this term, each school has a new School Improvement Partner (SIP), as our current SIP is undertaking some work outside Hackney has accepted a senior post outside of Hackney. At Lauriston, we will have the new Senior Leadership & Management advisor Damien Parrot, at Sebright, we will have Rachel Thompson who is well known to us as a Hackney Advisor and at Daubeney we have Tom Panagiotopolous, an Ex Hackney Head Teacher. We look forward to showing them our schools and telling them about our improvement journeys.

We welcome some new faces to Blossom: the return of Hannah Say (formerly of Sebright) who has joined the teaching team at Daubeney and Keeley Thrower who has joined our catering team at Sebright.

Don't forget our Instagram sites too, to find out more about the work and learning we do.....

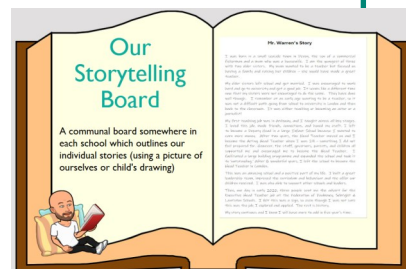


The Blossom Storytelling Plan

Author Richard Wagamese, an indigenous Canadian writer and journalist said 'All we are is story....' and this resonates deeply with me, given our responsibilities as school communities. A recurring theme of our visits to schools in Canada was:

- That everyone had something to communicate
- That individual stories were important and valued by all
- And learning could be beneficial by knowing histories and contexts even better.

I think we do this pretty well already, but the best relationships happen when we know each other well and we have the opportunity to tell our stories. I want to further develop our individual senses of belonging by telling stories, feeling represented and creating legacy and meaning. Over the coming two terms, each school is going to undertake three strands of work in this area. Governors have kick started this by telling their stories to the board at each meeting, resulting in a deeper knowledge of how they came to be at Blossom.



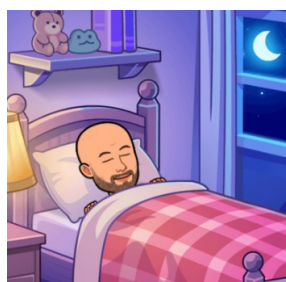
Storytelling Reels

We are going to ask our staff (as many as possible) to record a 90 second reel outlining their Hackney Stories which we will use to create a 'School Movie of Community Stories', using the following prompts:

- **When did you first come to Hackney?**
- **What is your best Hackney memory?**
- **Why do you feel belonging at this School?**
- **If you could wave a magic wand, what is one thing you'd wish for to improve Hackney?**
- **Describe Hackney in one word**
- **Describe your school in one word**

This will be led by one of our Senior Leadership Teams. We would love to involve parents and carers in this, so watch this space for info about how to share your stories reels with me.

I hope you agree that this will be a really meaningful and lovely way of creating a deeper insight into our communities as well as a lasting legacy.



R. Warren

Our Storytelling Boards

This will be a display area in each school which outlines our individual mini autobiographies. This will involve members of our school communities—children, staff, governors and parents. We would love contributions for this. An example of [Mr Warren's Story is here](#). This will be lead by our Creative Art Leads - Miss Julian, Miss Miah and Miss Payne—and look like a series of books.

Story Floorbooks

Another way of collating our children's stories is to create a school floorbook(s) which can be filled in different ways—illustration, poems, stories, comic strips, photographs—as a visual representation of our school community backgrounds. This will be lead by our Anthropology Leads—Miss Julian, Miss McIver and Miss Phillips. Prompts for this include:

- **What has your story been so far.....**
- **Best school memory?**
- **Favourite member of staff?**
- **The most powerful learning you can remember?**
- **What it feels to be at this school?**