



Lowick and Holy Island CE First Schools Headteacher Report to Governors Autumn Term 2020

School Characteristics

- **School population**

Cohort	Nursery	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Overall
Gender (girls / boys)	2 / 7	5 / 2	1 / 3	4 / 3	4 / 2	2 / 4	18/21
Lowick / Holy Island	9 / 0	6 / 1	4 / 0	6 / 1	6 / 0	6 / 0	37/2
Total	9	7	4	7	6	6	39

School numbers have reduced from the previous report however they are the same as they were in Autumn last year. We have seen some losses and gains over this term so far (details below). Nursery numbers are encouraging for this time of the year, especially as we have not been able to have our usual stay and play sessions. Reception numbers are higher than anticipated as we gained two further children.

From the beginning of this academic year we lost three pupils: one to home education due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic, one to follow a sibling to another school and one due to a house move. However, we did gain three children: the two in Reception mentioned above and another pupil due to their parent moving into the area. Our budget based on pupil numbers therefore remained on track.

This half term we have lost two children due to a house move – they were on roll for October census so will be included in our budget for this year.

- **Pupil characteristics (Special Educational Needs / Disability (SEND) / Pupil Premium (PP))**

Three children across both schools are identified as having SEND at the level of ‘school support’. One child is identified as SEND with an Education and Healthcare Plan (EHCP).

There are three children who are Looked After (LAC). Three children are in receipt of free school meals (FSM) and one additional pupil is also eligible for pupil premium funding as they have been in receipt of free school meals in the previous year.

- **Current staffing**

- Headteacher: Rebecca Simpson
- Class 1 teacher: Carolyn Strangeways
- Class teacher (based on Holy Island and sharing Class 2 in Lowick): Heather Stiansen

- Class teacher: Katie Waddington (currently covering my teaching load to enable me to manage my workload and to enable smaller group work / year group work to catch up after lockdown)
- Teaching assistants: Julie Edmison, Steph Hay and Amelia Easten. Sara Morgan is currently employed as a TA on a fixed term contract to support our pupil with an EHCP (which come with funding to pay towards this).
- Support staff: Linda Blenkinsop is our administrator, Lesley Bradbury and Karen Ward are our caretakers for Lowick and Holy Island respectively. Rachel Easton is our lunchtime supervisor. We have recruited Joanne Marshall as a second lunchtime supervisor.
- Sara Morgan and Jemma Parsons' (who were our 'play leaders') fixed term contracts came to an end in July and were not renewed.
- Margaret Smith is working from our school kitchen.
- Zoe Turner delivers active learning sessions every Monday across the school.

- **Safeguarding overview**

Since my previous Headteacher Report for the spring term:

Concern raised for school file.	Children's services referrals	Early Help referrals	Child protection plan	Child in need	Referral to LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)	Operation Encompass	Operation Endeavour
3	0	2	0	0	0	5	0

We continue to work with Laura Miller to follow up on the Operation Encompass Next Steps programme to provide support for our PHSE programme about relationships.

As Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) I note the rise in Operation Encompass reports which came into school over the lockdown period and during the Autumn term so far. The school receives a report if the police attend a residence which includes a school aged child. Not all of these reports then lead to further action, depending on the circumstances.

- **Premises**

The county organised the re-wiring of the Lowick school building over the summer holidays. This work continued and overlapped with the beginning of the Autumn term (teacher training days and then work done at weekends and before or after school hours). It is now completed and remaining work is due to defects which require rectifying (two lights in the kitchen are not working and we have asked for the fuse board switches to be labelled).

An electronic fire alarm system has also been installed in Lowick.

On Holy Island, Karen Ward has been keeping the building in good shape and she has also replaced the oil tank watchman.

Leadership and Management

We are working in challenging times at the moment and government and county guidance is regularly updated and requires us to keep updating and monitoring our plans in school. We have now found a rhythm and routine for our school day to include frequent cleaning, handwashing and finding as many opportunities to be outside as possible.

Focused staff training to ensure improved pedagogy remains a high priority and this is mainly being done virtually or in house.

Staff training since the previous Headteacher Report:

Date	Training focus	Who	Outcome	Impact
During lockdown (May – July)	White Rose Maths Mixed Age Guidance	KW & HS	Support for effective maths planning for mixed age classes	Shared online planning is effective.
	White Rose Maths – using concrete –pictorial- abstract approaches	KS & HS	Support maths mastery approach in a consistent approach to number work	Planning includes CPA approach
	Leading primary science	HS	Identify key features of successful curriculum and support implementation.	Science curriculum is updated effectively
	CLPE - Planning a text based curriculum in Y3/4	HS	Staff more able to plan effective ‘power of reading’ English lessons for mixed age KS2 children.	Power of Reading supports English curriculum to promote high quality texts
	(1) Autism awareness and (2) Strategies and best practice regarding ASD in education	All teachers & TAs	All staff up to date and aware of issues and suitable strategies in preparation for pupil beginning in September with ASD.	Staff are more prepared and school-wide consistent approach agreed for ASD pupil beginning in school in Sept.
	British Sign Language	CS	Enable staff to use sign language techniques for non-verbal communication.	Used in zoom connections and to replace singing in school.
	Makaton	KA & AE	Enable early years staff to use simple sign language techniques for non-verbal communication.	Used in zoom connections and to replace singing in school.
1 st & 2 nd September Teacher Training Days	Safeguarding update	All staff	All staff aware of the need to be vigilant regarding safeguarding and familiar with part 1 of Keeping Children Safe in Education Sept 2020	Culture of vigilance is supported.
	Recovery curriculum	All teachers	Support staff in developing a new curriculum to support pupils on their return to school after lockdown.	Curriculum is appropriate for children’s needs.

9 th Sept	Introduction to Seesaw app	CS, HS, KW	Staff understand how we can use Seesaw as a virtual reading record system in school.	Seesaw now being used as a virtual reading record. Parents are connected and able to comment.
10 th Sept	Covid 19 tests & school test webinar	RS	Headteacher aware of rules regarding testing and when the school's tests can be used.	School follows procedures correctly.
11 th Sept	Commando Joe's training	RS, CS, HS, JE & ZT	Staff understand the principles of and how Commando Joe's system works and how to deliver it.	Commando Joe's launch and impact on pupil is supported consistently by key staff.
21 st Sept	Wellbeing and Behaviour support (SEND team)	RS	SENDCo (special education needs co-ordinator) is aware of available support.	Free resources and strategies have been shared from the SEND team to support well-being and behaviour in school.
24 th & 30 th Sept	Virtual learning / remote education training Including using Seesaw and Classroom Secrets Kids websites.	KW, HS, JE & CS	Staff supported in how we can use Seesaw and Classroom Secrets Kids should we need to deliver remote education. Materials from Oak National Academy and BBC also evaluated and linked to our current curriculum plans.	Staff now using Seesaw more regularly for reading records and to get used to how the app works. Sheet of linked lessons to BBC Bitesize, CSK and Oak Academy produced to link to autumn objectives.
28 th Sept	Ofsted webinar on current visits system	RS	Staff aware of how current Ofsted visits would work during the Autumn term.	School improvement documentation tweaked to match
w/c 28 th Sept	Thrive approach staff training (delivered by CS & RS)	HS, KW, JE, KA, AE	Staff trained in using group profiles to create action plans with suitable strategies to promote wellbeing of all children.	All year groups have a group profile and Thrive action plan. Curriculum planning has been adjusted to match suggested activities / strategies accordingly. Current impact on staff is raised awareness of pupil's needs and a deeper understanding of the Thrive approach. Impact on the children will be measured with updated group profiles early in the spring term.
30 th Sept	Remote education webinar	RS	Headteacher aware of requirements regarding remote education provision from 22 nd Oct onwards.	Clear and comprehensive plans are in place to deliver remote education if required. Staff are familiar with the plans.

8 th Oct	Read Write Inc (RWI) development day (remote)	All teachers & TAs	All staff delivering the RWI programme are supported and best practice is in place for phonics learning.	First four weeks of RWI intervention indicate excellent progress for most children. Intervention groups have been re-organised for autumn 2 half term and plans in place for the few children not making good progress.
12 th Oct	Shared maths planning	Teachers	Twilight session to meet with Ford, Tritlington and Norham staff to jointly plan mixed age sessions.	Staff are clear on objectives and are confident in their teaching programme for this term. The chance to share experiences and offer support has helped staff wellbeing.
16 th Oct	School Improvement Partner (SIP) virtual visit	RS	Support for Headteacher in terms of driving school improvement whilst coping with current challenges.	
19 th Oct	Thrive practitioner CPD on developing a relational policy	RS & CS	Thrive practitioners in school remain up to date with best practice.	Encouraging positive behaviour policy reviewed in line with this training. Staff training now planned for early in spring term based on this.

Further staff training planned in the autumn term:

Date	Training focus	Who	Intended Outcome	Planned Impact
5 th Nov	Mental Health Leads conference (virtual)	RS	Wellbeing for Education Return project shared to be cascaded to staff.	We can plan more effectively to support children with mental health needs.
11 th Nov	Designated teacher (LAC) conference	RS	School practice for LAC is up to date.	School practice is in line with best practice.
12 th Nov	Great North Maths Hub – teacher research group (TRG) workshop on maths mastery (virtual)	RS & CS	Our maths practice continues to improve based on principles of mastery and mixed age teaching.	Children are able to consolidate and extend learning using mastery approach.
17 th Nov	Thrive practitioner CPD on relate-rupture-repair cycle	RS & CS	Thrive practitioners in school remain up to date with best practice.	Children are supported through Thrive approach techniques.
	Muddy Puddle teacher training courses / Early Years sustainability	KA & AE	Outdoor learning continues to be supported in nursery and will be cascaded through the school.	Outdoor learning remains a priority.

Quality of Education

Our Recovery Curriculum has had three main objectives:

- 1) To recover any lost learning and ensure good progress, especially in the core subjects of reading, writing and maths.
- 2) To ensure pupil well-being following the mental health challenges of lockdown and surrounding issues and address any arising issues with regard to resilience and team work (for example)
- 3) To re-ignite pupil's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning across a broad range of subjects.

We still wanted to continue to work on our targets from last year regarding ensuring consistent assessment and ensuring challenge, whilst being mindful of the extra challenges and issues facing us in school at the moment.

Our previous areas of improvement based on our 2019 Ofsted report were:

- (1) Increase the proportion of pupils working within greater depth for writing across the school.

Currently this is not the main focus of our recovery curriculum although we are developing the children's ability to write at length again. We celebrated National Poetry Day on 1st October to encourage the children to be successful writers and this worked very well.

- (2) Ensure presentation and accuracy of writing, including spelling, is of the highest quality.

Handwriting has focused time in school after lunch. Spellings are also being prioritised at the moment. Children continue to have spelling homework weekly based around spelling rules and this is followed up in English lessons. This is now done using the Sumdog website where we set spelling word lists per year group each week.

- (3) Ensure children develop a stronger understanding of different world faiths.

Our RE topic for autumn 1 half term was Islam and this is now blending with Christianity as we focus on special places (places of worship and also pilgrimage) for both religions in autumn 2 before moving on to Incarnation (Christmas) before the end of term.

Our current theme in school is The Natural World and the Environment which is what our focus was going to be in the summer. We felt it was a theme which would support outdoor learning, be interesting and relevant to the children and would allow us a lot of scope in the humanities and science lessons.

We are also working with smaller groups at the moment and taking opportunities to work with individual year groups as much as possible to identify gaps in learning and to support accelerated progress in a supportive way.

Behaviour and attitudes

The school continues to have high expectations of pupils' behaviour. Incidents are dealt with promptly and staff are confident in maintaining our expectations and responding to issues arising. Since the previous Headteacher report there have been no major behaviour incidents, no exclusions or prejudicial/racist incidents.

- **Attendance**

Attendance was an area for improvement in our Ofsted report. In the spring term we were in line with national averages. In the first half term both schools have attendance above average: 98.2% for Lowick and 100% for Holy Island.

Personal Development

This continues to be an important part of our school approach. We are pleased with how well the children have come back into school this year as some of them have had a long time away. The children seem to be happy to be back in school, they are demonstrating enthusiasm and a willingness to learn and be part of the school community again.

We have bought into the Commando Joe's programme in school which is about character education. The values it is promoting are RESPECT (resilience, empathy, self-awareness, positivity, excellence, communication and team work). We have been able to analyse the children against this framework and are already seeing a positive impact on the children from the 'missions' they have done so far.

We have also stepped up our Thrive approach in school with in-house training for all staff around using group profiles and action plans / strategies and activities tailored for each year group. Carolyn and myself are both trained practitioners and we have accessed practitioner training on the relate – rupture – repair cycle to promote children's wellbeing. We have allotted curriculum time to mindfulness within PHSE to help support this work. We continue to promote the PLACE ethos (we are playful, loving, accepting, curious and empathetic).

We continue to use the Roots and Fruits resources for Collective worship and we have also signed up to use the excellent resources provided by the Archbishop of York Youth Trust. We are going to use their prayer spaces Advent resources this year.

We are currently offering four after school clubs: skipping, ball skills/games, eco-club and Commando Joe's. We have had a very good take up on these clubs – including by disadvantaged children. For a small school we feel a strong commitment to provide a good and varied offer in terms of our extra-curricular activities. Our thanks to the staff who volunteer to help this happen.

School trips / enrichment opportunities since the previous Headteacher Report

We have been unable to offer school trips due to the restrictions in place but we are still seeking to enrich our curriculum as well as we can in other ways. We celebrated National Poetry Day on 1st October and had a Celebrating Differences week last half term which ended in a wear red day for Show Racism the Red Card. We are going for a walk in Lowick to identify different trees to link to our Natural World work. We are also creating a joint collage using natural materials of a Christmas scene to be used by Lowick parish council for a Christmas card for the local area. We have signed up to a virtual pantomime from the West Midlands Theatre Company and we will do our own nativity and film it for parents and families as we cannot put on a production as we usually would. In the spring term we are expecting a visit from 'Teach Rex' with their virtual dragon – linked to story telling and promoting writing skills.