

Pupil Premium – May 2016

This has been a busy quarter. A central file has been established on the I drive. This has allowed us to store copies of letters and begin to build up a central resource that management can access. This should help future proof the system in the event of absence as documents will still be available.

To allow me to familiarise myself with the children and their interests, I have been holding informal talks. This has highlighted that many of the Key Stage 2 children would value having their own reference books at home. Consequently I am looking at sourcing dictionaries, thesaurus, maths dictionaries and atlases which will be issued in September, the rationale being that they then won't lie unused over the summer, but will be put to active use at home with the start of the new term and help instil good practice.

Many of the children from both Key Stages would also like to participate in activities with their parents. With this view in mind, I am currently putting out feelers for cooking workshops, forest school and similar opportunities. There are also plans afoot within the locality too, which have yet to be finalised.

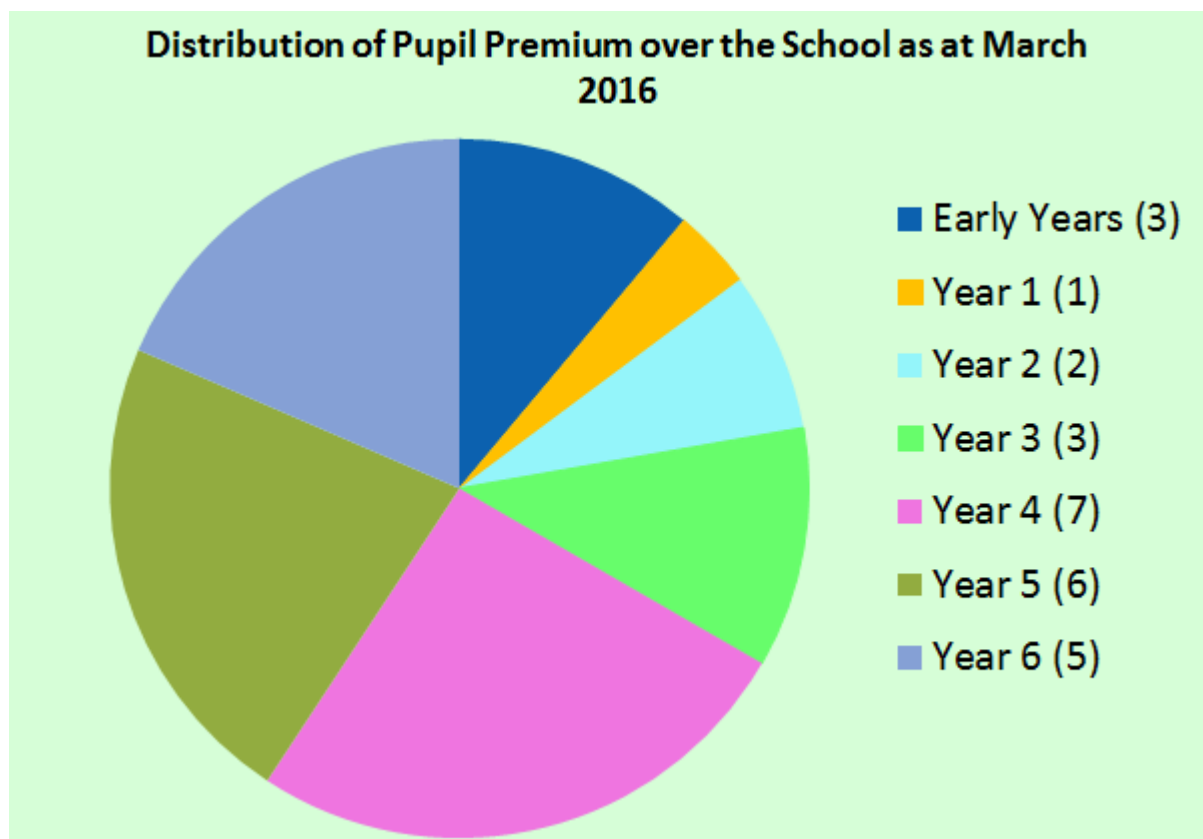
To highlight awareness of Pupil Premium, the opportunities it offers, and who it is available for, I have re-written the letter to parents to make this more explicit and we have since had another couple of applicants taking us to a total of 27 children. These children together with the two from the previous quarter are currently receiving support from a talented volunteer who was a SENCO. Two of these children, who are in Key Stage 2, are also accessing the Forest School programme.

Regrettably this month we say "Farewell" to Mrs Phillips and Mrs Crook who have been supporting PP children. We wish them well in their new ventures and thank them for all the work they've done. Ms Mascard, who has experience of working with children on interventions, will help support during the Summer Term. With SATs just around the corner, Mrs Homewood will spend the week invigilating children.

Attending pupil progress meetings proved to be a valuable insight, as it not only allowed me to familiarise myself with the children but also focussed the class teachers on intervention strategies and progress. It was also clear that with our ever increasing staff, it was essential we all had a clear vision and consequently I delivered a staff meeting. This was to ensure staff were aware of government expectations, current provision and future plans and were aware of the need to analyse barriers for learning and address these with a view to closing the gap.

This proved to be a valuable and informative session and the plan is now to share this with TAs.

Currently PP children make up 5% of our school community. This is broken down as follows:-



This demographic clearly shows that at present the majority of children are situated in Years 4, 5 and 6, however it is thought that with the advent of free school meals for children in KS1 and EYs many parents are foregoing the opportunity offered by completing the documentation. To help address this for the forthcoming year, I have written a letter to highlight the opportunities available and as an incentive offered families the chance to have a free school uniform for the first year. I have held discussion with Sussex Uniforms and Broadbridges who are both happy to invoice the school for named parents. These will be circulated later in Summer Term to the new entrants. An initial meeting with the SENCO and myself highlighted that 2/3 of our PP children were also on the SEN register

Plans are afoot for PP children in KS2 to experience some life skills and Barratts have kindly agreed to lay on a tour of their new housing and talk about the building skills involved and allow the children to do some brick laying! We are currently awaiting dates as they would like to invite their mascot down and arrange some publicity for this. Meanwhile the whole of the Year 5 cohort (75 children) will also experience a building challenge which has been arranged with BAM (who are currently involved with the building work down at the station).

The office are currently inundated with the new budgetary requirements and consequently we still await definitive figures regarding PP.

I met with the SIP partner to discuss progress over the last 3 months and she was very positive about what had been achieved. Focus continues to be on closing the gap and data analysis. Dedicated management time needs to be set aside to allow time for this and sourcing of provision.