

Steady improvements in reading in Reception at Langley Green

Written by Susan Burton (February 2018)

The Challenges faced by the School

Children at Langley are of predominantly Asian heritage, with 86% having English as an additional language, so the development of language skills is a challenge.

Langley Green implemented SFA in September 2013 with the aim of improving reading and writing levels. The programme has been very successful in increasing progress and attainment and the school was awarded an Ofsted rating of 'Good' in 2014, having previously been graded as RI.

As with many schools it has been a challenge to ensure that children are 'school ready' for Year 1. A key measure is reading attainment.

How the SfA Programme addresses these challenges

The SfA structures that have enabled this increase in attainment of children leaving Reception is:

- Structured, enjoyable phonics sessions in Nursery.
- Ability grouping in Reception focuses on closing skills gaps, preparing children to read.
- Children start to read when they know the first 31 sounds and can blend CVC words.
- Children in a reading group have daily 30-minute sessions in groups of up to 20 children following the structured, progressive KinderRoots programme.
- Reception staff are joined by two experienced Roots TAs to enable targeted ability grouping.

The Impact of SfA

The impact of this is that the Average Point Score (APS) of children entering year increased by 2.1 points over 4 years, significantly increasing the number of children at the age expected level.

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School Name:	Langley Green
Location:	Crawley, West Sussex
Ofsted Rating:	Good
Pupils on roll:	450+
Age Group:	4 - 11
FSM:	22.3%
Pupil Premium:	12.7%
EAL:	86%

Fig 1. Average Point Score for Reading for children entering Year 1 at Langley Green over 4 years

Date	APS Score	Change compared 2013
Sept 2013	4.6	n/a
Sept 2014	5.3	+0.7
Sept 2015	6.2	+1.6
Sept 2016	6.4	+1.8
Sept 2017	6.7	+2.1

The impact of this improvement in progress can be seen in Fig 2.

Fig 2. The number of underperforming children in Year 1 in September for 4 years following implementation of SfA

