**Lindale CE Primary School**

**Literacy Subject Monitoring**

*Notes from Tom Holman’s visit and conversation with Kim Curwen, Literacy Leader, Friday 29 June 2018*

Kim explained some of the recent priorities and changes in the teaching and learning of spelling, phonics and grammar across the school. She outlined in particular some of the ways teachers provide extra challenges for higher-ability pupils; efforts to extend the skills of middle-ability children; and meetings between staff to discuss teaching in different classes.

We discussed the school’s current focus on Reading and the target of helping more pupils to reach higher levels of achievement. Kim explained the use of the Reading Pro scheme, which has worked well for children preparing for SATs and gives teachers an excellent overview of their attainment. It has been very beneficial for higher and middle-ability children, but less so for lower-ability pupils because it has insufficient books suited to them.

Kim reported on the use of the Power of Reading scheme, which coordinates lessons around a single book, like David Almond’s *Skellig* and *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson. This has helped children to read more deeply, and the books have been used as a springboard for teaching in other subjects and topics too.

We also discussed the coordination of guided reading in the school, the high standards of Writing achieved lately, and the recent Key Stage 2 SATs. Children had been well prepared for the Literacy aspects of these, and the school is hopeful for strong results.