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African school visit

A GROUP of South African visitors travelled 6,000 miles to learn valuable teaching methods from Hollywood Primary School.

Dr Jean Place, from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, and nine of her pupils visited the school as part of an international learning exchange.

They spent two days at the school learning about Teaching Handwriting Reading and Spelling Skills (THRASS) -- a new way of teaching phonics as the building blocks of reading and spelling at primary level.

Their arrival followed an earlier visit to South Africa by Hollywood Primary School's deputy headteacher Paula Weaver and literacy leader Sam Redmond.

Headteacher David Waller said: "As a result of the pioneering work between our school and Alan Davies, the creator of THRASS, we have been thrust into the forefront of this new way of teaching and learning.

"Hosting a delegation from South Africa is a highlight for the school and for the city as we can show to our international partners how Birmingham is leading the way in 21st century teaching methods."