



Dear Parents and Children,

Yet again the school year is racing by and the children have been fully immersed in their learning around the theme of World War I, "Battles and Bandages". As well as producing great work, they have enjoyed some fantastic sporting opportunities including a visit from gymnast, Steve Jehu, football training and tag rugby. Don't forget the sharing assembly on Friday 17th October.

Ofsted

As you are all aware, our School was judged to be Outstanding in the latest Ofsted report. This was extremely rewarding for everyone and a testament to the hard work put in at every level.

However, not to be complacent, the school continues to find ways to move forward.

All teaching staff have been working on professional projects aimed at further developing their understanding of how children learn and these underpin the priorities for this year's School Improvement Plan.

School Improvement Plan Priorities

To secure outstanding Teaching and Learning through:

- Professional Research and development that focuses on:
 - How the brain develops
 - What children tell us about how they learn and what makes them think
 - Opportunities and environments that promote thinking
 - Exploring mind sets
 - How to promote ownership of learning

To strengthen further the effectiveness of Leadership and Management by:

- Subject leader teams continuing to develop their roles through monitoring activities and designing professional development opportunities for staff

- Maths and Literacy subject leaders broadening their experience and skills through supporting other leaders in other schools
- All governors effectively supporting and challenging the performance of the school

To continue to build and design an excellent Curriculum that promotes depth of learning and opportunities for all pupils':

- Embed and monitor robust Assessment systems in all subject areas across the whole school
- Extend provision and opportunities for pupils learning in and with ICT

Governors will be visiting classrooms and talking to the children about their learning as part of their monitoring activities this term.

Attendance

School attendance was up last year from 94.8% to 95.8%. Staff, governors and the Local Authority monitor school attendance as it is vital and expected that children attend school so as to have the best learning opportunities.

We understand that it can be difficult to fit in affordable family holidays now that it is not permitted to take children out in term time. However, it is worth noting that Devon schools often return later than other counties after the Summer holidays and Beaford has a full week off at this time when it may be possible to book an off peak holiday.

New Curriculum

From September 2014 all primary schools will have been working to the guidance of the new curriculum. You will probably not have noticed much difference as teachers have been using this guidance for the last 12 months. Detailed curriculum overviews will shortly be available on our website when the format has been finalised.

End of Key Stage 1 (Year 2) and end of Key Stage 2 (year 6) tests will be unchanged this year.



However from July 2016 these will be different in order to reflect the curriculum changes.

Governing Body & Responsibilities

Alison Bennett: Chair of Governors. Data and School Improvement, Curriculum, EYFS, Pupil Discipline

Becky Huxtable: Vice Chair of Governors. Data and School Improvement.

Jeffers Mayo: Data and School Improvement, Attendance & Behaviour, Child Protection, Health and Wellbeing, Pupil Discipline

Rev Katie Cross: Parent Engagement, Community Cohesion, SEN, Gifted & Talented, Children in Care

Kate Scrivener: Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee

Mark Bowen: Health & Safety, Security, Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee

Rev Mike Clark: Full Governing Body

Governors can be contacted through Helen Wright (Clerk to Governors) in the school office.

Governor Vacancy

Due to work commitments Graham James is resigning, having served the school as a parent Governor for three years. We would like to give our heartfelt thanks for all his hard work and valued input during this time.

Consequently we will need a new parent to join the Board. It is vital for the school to have an effective Board of Governors and obviously it does involve a certain commitment. However, it can also be extremely rewarding and an opportunity to learn how a school is run and to contribute to the community. New Governors are well supported and provided with relevant training. I believe that it is the duty of every parent to at least consider becoming a Governor at some point in their children's education. Please don't rule yourself out before talking to an existing Governor. We would particularly welcome parents

who have financial or business experience, but all applications would be appreciated.

Letters and nomination forms have been sent out. Please return these to the school office by 24th October 2014. If you would like to know more about what the role entails please speak to Miss Yates or one of the existing Governors.

If Governance really is not for you then please take the opportunity to be involved in the other School committees such as the PTA (next meeting 22nd October, 9.00am) or Parent Forum, or ask about becoming a Champion Reader. **YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!!**

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the term and have the opportunity to join in with some of the many events taking place.

With Best Wishes

Alison Bennett

Chair of Governors