

Governors' Newsletter

Summer Term 2011



Dear parents and friends,

Yet another academic year is over – its almost unbelievable how time flies and our toddlers turn into (nearly) teenagers!

We've had a busy term, as ever! We've **welcomed back Miss Yates** who's been on maternity leave and given birth to the very lovely Alexander. Its great to have her back in school and making plans for next year.

Thanks to **fundraising by the PTA**, with the support of Miss Yates, we've managed to do improvement work in the playground, which really makes a difference to the learning environment. Watch this space - markings for tennis, netball and playground games will be going down during the summer holidays.

We had a great **Sports Day** and **Summer Fair** recently – where the weather was very kind to us! Thanks to all the parents who were great sports and took part in the adult races, which we hope will become an annual feature! And well done to the PTA who raised a fantastic sum at the summer fair, which was brilliantly organised.

Finally we'd like to send our very best wishes to the **Year Sixes** who will be leaving at the end of term. We wish you all the best for the next stage of your lives, and we hope that parents will join us for the **Leavers Service on Friday 22nd July at 2pm** in the school hall.

Have a great summer break!

SAT's and Testing

We held the Statutory Assessment Tasks (**SAT's**) for Year Six and for Key Stage 1 as normal at this time of year, as well as the Foundation stage

assessment. This is a pressured time for children and staff alike, so thanks go to all the children who worked hard and took the tasks in their stride.

We'd especially like to thank all the staff who work very hard to guide the children in our school through SAT's and other assessment tasks.

New parent governors needed!

It's all change for the governing body next term.

We've agreed a new 'portfolio' system where each Governor will take special responsibility for a particular area of work. We think this will make the Governing body more efficient, and also give Governors a real opportunity to contribute to the work of the school.

Jennie Hayes and Janice Gist are leaving their roles as parent governors. Jennie and Janice have both been governors for three years and have supported the school in lots of ways behind the scenes. We'd like to thank them for the excellent work they have done on behalf of the school.

This means we have **vacancies for parent governors**. Elections will be held early in the autumn term – if you think you might be interested, talk to Mrs Wright or Miss Yates.

If you'd like to have a chat about what it means to be a parent governor, do talk to Alison Bennett or Graham James, both parent governors with children in Ladybirds and Owls.

We have recently undertaken a skills audit of our Governors and they have a lot of good skills to share with the school. We'd be especially interested in new parent governors who have experience in any of the following:

- Running a business
- Finances
- Innovation
- Marketing

New Staff Governor

We're also saying goodbye to Mrs Kate Scrivener as a Staff Governor this year. Kate has been on the Governing Body for ten years, so deserves a well-earned break from this responsibility. Many thanks to Kate for her excellent work in this role. Staff members will be invited to nominate a new staff governor in September.

Staffing Changes

We've quite a few staffing changes for the coming year. Governors would like to thank all the outgoing staff members who have contributed so much to our school. They have all been great assets to the school and we'd like to thank them for their hard work and commitment to the children they've worked with and to the school.

We say goodbye to Laura Parkington, who is leaving us to move to Dorset, and Della Bealey who is going to work at Chulmleigh Community College. We also wish all the best and say goodbye to Jaine Hodge, Kester Merrington and Ryan Wright.

We wish them all well.

And we'd like to welcome Leisa Down as a class teacher who has been with us as a student in Owls, and has done fantastically well in her studies and in her teaching.

Audit

Every four years a school receives an administrative and financial audit. We are pleased to say that this was successfully passed in June, with an overall judgement of good standard with many areas scoring as a high standard. The areas audited included:

Personnel, Leadership & Governance, People management, Partnership and resources, Orders and Payments, Census, CRB, Security, Trips, Income

School meals

We'll be continuing to run a school meal service next year despite changes to the way in which school meals are going to be managed. We will only be able to continue to run this service in the school if the take-up of school meals is high enough.

You'll find that there will be special meal ideas happening from the autumn term, so please do have a look and book a school meal for your child. If you have ideas to improve school meal take-up, please do talk to a member of the parent forum.

Enriching the curriculum

Our children have been involved in a wide range of activities this year, to enhance their learning, including hosting visitors to assemblies, theatre visits to the Plough, outdoor visits to Northam Burrows and Okehampton Castle, a large number of fantastic fundraising activities for charity, cycle training, Learning Community activities in sport and science, performances at Christmas by the choir and the whole school...if you'd like to see a full list, have a look at the school website!

<http://www.beaford-primary.devon.sch.uk/>

...and finally, a note from the Chair of Governors...

I am stepping down as Chair of Governors this year as my son Euan is moving on to Chulmleigh Community College. After three years of being a Governor I feel its time to move on and bring some new blood into the Governing Body.

It's been a great privilege to take on the responsibility as a Governor for Beaford School.

The Governing Body is a really fantastic group of people, who work hard, often unseen, on policy and practicalities, which affect the current and future life of the school.

This job is made possible, and enjoyable, because of the hard work and commitment of our head teacher, Annette Yates, and our school administrator, Helen Wright. Without their clear thinking and fantastic organisational skills, the job of a Governor (and especially Chair of Governors) would be so much more difficult.

I leave knowing that Beaford Community Primary and Nursery School is a fantastic place for our children to learn and grow – a wonderful environment for learning, a place that continues to keep children's learning and well-being at the core of all that it does, and most of all a friendly and supportive community in which children learn great values to take them through the next stage of their lives.

Thank you to ALL the children, staff, parents and governors who make this a fantastic place to be.

Jennie Hayes, Chair of Governors