

Governors' Newsletter

Autumn Term 2013



Dear Parents and Children,

What a GIANT term it has been! The children have tackled this HUGE topic with great enthusiasm as usual. Each classroom has an array of finished work and we have been able to see how the new curriculum is developing.

All classes showcased their learning in a brilliant sharing assembly although the highlight of the term has to be the fantastic Christmas Performance!

As usual, staff and Governors have been busy behind the scenes, continuing to develop and progress the school's performance.

School Improvement Plan Priorities:

Priority 1

To secure outstanding *teaching and learning* through:

- Staff engaging, reflecting and developing joint active research activities focused around:
 - Pupil talk for learning
 - Peer teaching by pupils
 - Strategies for helping pupils make links with their previous learning
 - Characteristics of learning and learning styles
 - Teacher questioning
 - Pupils developing resilience and perseverance with their learning

Priority 2

To strengthen further the effectiveness of *leadership and management* by:

- All subject leaders planning, reviewing and supporting staff with making changes to the whole school curriculum and monitor the impact of these changes by:
 - Observing teaching
 - Talking to pupils about their learning
 - Track pupil progress and attainment for all pupils and groups of pupils
 - Evaluate the outcomes of pupils' work
- Experienced subject leader support and mentor the new subject leader to effectively undertake their role
- All governors effectively support and challenge the school
- Maths and literacy subject leaders consolidate practice and achieve the professional status of Specialist Leaders in Education
- SENCO developing their senior leadership role to include effective monitoring and evaluation of provision and pupil progress

Priority 3

To develop and implement an Outstanding Curriculum that will engage, excite and prepare our children in rural North Devon for their futures.

Governor monitoring visits this term

As part of Governors ongoing work to monitor their areas of responsibility, Governors are involved throughout the year to visit the school. These visits include:

- Observing teaching and learning
- Talking to pupils about their learning
- Monitoring standards of attainment and progress of pupils with subject leaders and the headteacher
- Evaluating action plans
- Talking to subject leaders

- Developing policy
- Carrying out health and safety risk assessments
- Internal audit

Governor monitoring visits this term have included:

- School improvement team meeting
- Pupil Premium monitoring visit
- Health & Safety audit
- SEN & Attendance monitoring visit
- Safeguarding audit
- Head teacher performance management
- Full governing body meeting

Breakfast and After School Club Trial

The club will be continuing next term as this has been a success this term. At the present it is financially viable with all costs being covered.

Parent Mail and Parent Pay

Thank you to everyone for using this new system, a lot of paper has been saved! A significant 50% of parents are now paying online – please sign up for this if you have not already done so as it saves the school a lot of time and money. If you have any problems setting up an account please speak to Mrs Wright in the school office.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

North Devon are piloting a new system for identifying and supporting children with additional needs which will test the integration of education, health and social care. The aims of this are to provide:

- A co-ordinated approach to single assessment
- A single plan for 0-25 year olds

- Personal budgets
- Support to parent carers and young people
- Support to vulnerable children, including children in care and children with complex health needs up to age 25

The current Code of Practice for children with SEND is currently being reviewed by the DFE and a draft paper is now available on the DFE website.

As always we value parents' support and input and would encourage you to visit Parentview on the OFSTED website to log your opinions. This can be accessed at <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Governor Vacancies

We anticipate vacancies for parent Governors in the New Year and would ask anyone who may be interested to come forward and speak to one of the current Governors who will be able to give some insight into what the role entails.

THANKYOU to Miss Yates and all staff for their continuing hard work and to parents for your ongoing support and involvement in the school community.

Thank you also to the PTA who have continued to work hard to raise money this term.

On behalf the Board of Governors I wish you all a wonderful Christmas season and bright and happy New Year!

Alison Bennett

Chair of Governors