



## **GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 2010**

### **New Governors**

We'd like to welcome Alison Bennett to the Board of Governors as our newly elected parent governor. We've also appointed Graham James as our Local Education Authority governor. Rev. Meg Slingo joined us as community governor just before the summer. We'd like to welcome them all and thank them for their support of the school.

### **PTA & Parent Forum**

Many parents dedicate a great deal of time to making our school a vibrant and healthy community, not least of which are members of the PTA and the Parent's Forum. Governors would like to thank both groups for their time and fantastic contribution to the school.

In particular we would like to mention Kirstine Durk who was Chair of the PTA for three years and worked tirelessly to plan and run events and fundraisers for the school. We are indebted to your hard work and commitment Kirstine – thank you for all you have done (so far!).

We also welcome Helen Sutton as the new Chair of the PTA who we know will have her work cut out and will also do a great job.

### **Parent Support Advisor**

Jess Gierke, the Parent Support Advisor, (PSA) for Torrington Learning Community, works in our school every Tuesday. She will offer support, advice and signposting if you have any worries about:

- starting school and moving between classes and schools
- completing homework
- improving relationships with your child, including challenging behaviour
- establishing routines at home
- Your child's attendance

You can contact the PSA:

- Directly on 07814 377529
- Ask the school to refer you
- Drop in on a Tuesday

With this position came funding to refurbish part of the 'Old School House' which is now a really useful space for meetings, music lessons and courses.

### **Thanks to all the staff**

It's that time of year again when we look back and review the year. The Governors would like to thank all the teaching and non-teaching staff at Beaford School, for all their hard work this year. We're sure parents would like to join us in those thanks. We all appreciate how much they contribute to our children's learning and can look back on another year with pride in their achievements.

We are confident too that they will be a great team whilst Miss Yates is on leave and know that she is leaving the school in very safe hands. Although there will be a temporary change in leadership the school will continue to be run and organised in the same way.

## School Improvement Plan

As part of the formal workings of the school, we are required to evolve a School Improvement Plan showing how we would like the school to progress in the future. To help monitor this progress we set priorities for the year which can be monitored and assessed. This year our priorities are as follows:

### Priority 1

To improve the quality of learning & teaching for all learners through:

- ❖ Continued use of good quality practice, strategies and systems for Assessing Pupils Progress (APP) allowing all children to make the best possible progress
- ❖ Improving provision for ICT
- ❖ Exploring new technology & teaching opportunities for ICT

### Priority 2

To further develop shared leadership and widen professional development opportunities through:

- ❖ Early Years Team participation in the Communication, Language and Literacy project
- ❖ Whole school participation in Speaking & Listening Project

As one of the more successful schools in Devon, we have been invited to take part in a Speaking & Listening Action Research Project which focuses on the use of talk in the classroom. When the project is completed the school will then work with other schools to share and develop skills with other teachers.

### Priority 3

To further promote & secure community cohesion through:

- ❖ Making links with other schools
- ❖ Establishing activities which promote social integration for adults & children within the community
- ❖ Eco Schools Action Team

## Funding for schools

At the moment it is not clear how the recent spending review will affect our budget next year. Devon County Council will not know until December what their settlement from central Government will be, and then there will be a series of consultations and discussions before the announcement of a draft budget for the County in February 2011. Our school is unlikely to have a clear indication of our own budget until later that month.

We will have to be prepared then to meet whatever challenges face us and are confident we can do so as a school which is financially well-run, good at raising money and careful with spending.

We'll keep parents in touch with developments as they arise. Meanwhile you can contribute to the consultation and the debate by writing to your MP or by going to:

<http://toughchoices.co.uk> or

<http://www.fairfundingfordevonschools.org.uk>

You can also see the new education white paper, released this week at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/schoolswhitepaper>

## A chance to meet the new Acting Headteacher

Don't forget, there is an opportunity to meet Mrs Summers on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December between 3.30pm and 4.30pm** at school.

With very best wishes for the Christmas and New Year Break from the Board of Governors.