

Governors' Newsletter

Summer Term 2010



Dear parents and friends,

This is the second of our Governor's newsletters to keep you up to date with what's happening in school.

We've had a busy term, as ever! We've been working on developing our **community cohesion policy** and looking at ways for the school to increase active community links. This has included holding a special assembly for grandparents, which was well attended, and the children did really well, performing songs and poems. And we are developing a link with a school in London – watch this space!

We held the Statutory Assessment Tasks (**SAT's**) for Year Six as normal at this time of year, and the children worked hard and took it in their stride. Governors would especially like to thank the head-teacher and staff this year as the SAT's continued despite national strikes.

We have of course had a **new government** since our last newsletter. At the moment its not clear what changes will be put in place which might affect us, but the message is that we will be facing 25% cuts in budget, which will make a significant impact on the school. We do know that the new primary curriculum has also been scrapped. The new Department of Education website can be found at www.education.gov.uk

We have been undertaking **building work** in the old part of the school, which will really improve the facilities and make them much more functional. You'll all be pleased to know that the funding for this has not come out of

the core school budget but from the Learning Community.

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 Tuesday 20th July at 2pm. Have a great summer break!

New parent governors

Della and Lee are finishing their term of office as Governors at the end of this term and we'd like to thank them for the excellent work they have done on behalf of the school. We will have vacancy for a parent governor – if you think you might be interested talk to Helen in the office, or to the Chair of Governors, Jennie. We will hold an election of any interested parents in September.

Eco Schools

The Eco-schools programme is the largest sustainable schools programme in the world, currently running in 43 countries, involving 27,000 schools and 6,000,000 students.

Beaford School has now signed up to the Government initiative and has achieved the bronze award. Well done everyone! We will now work towards a silver flag and then the ultimate goal of a green flag, all of which will be displayed at the school.

The school has an ECO action team comprising of Mrs. Wright, two parents, one school Governor and eight pupils representing the different year groups. The team has been very busy! The children are now monitoring the school's electricity and water consumption to discover where and when energy is being is being wasted. This will be extended to monitoring the oil consumption. An initial action plan and an Eco-Code have been produced and presented to the school assembly. All these stages are linked to the school curriculum, for example, energy figures are collected and

pupils will produce graphs of the energy consumption.

Here is our **ECO-CODE**

Because we care about our school and the Environment we will:

- Save water by turning off taps
- Recycle paper, cardboard and glass
- Re-use waste where possible
- Turn off lights in empty rooms
- Compost fruit and vegetable leftovers
- Look after our garden and wild life
- Keep our school clean and tidy

Note: the above article was written by Governor David Thomas who has since become ill. We wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

How learning is organised

We invited Head Teacher Annette Yates to tell us a bit about how learning is organised in the classroom, to help us understand how the pupils in the school get the best chance to do their best work.

Whole Class Teaching – most lessons begin with an input from the class teacher to introduce & share the learning for the lesson with the class. These sessions usually happen with the class seated on the carpet areas in front of the in the interactive white board. Teachers share the aim of the lesson & then share, discuss, question, challenge and model new concepts. During this time children may be involved in these types of engaging activities:

- Answering & asking questions
- Writing answers & thoughts on their own small whiteboard
- Adding their ideas to the class white board
- Talking with a partner or small group

Following on from this, children will then extend or reinforce their learning through an activity. This activity will be carefully planned at different levels to meet the differing ability

needs of children within the class. The activity may be:

- An **Independent Activity** – individual or group task
- A **Group task** supported by an adult
- A **Guided group session** – with the teacher

Guided Group Session – Each child is part of a guided group session (no more than six children in a group) for Reading, Writing & Maths each week with the class teacher. Children are grouped by ability in these groups. The sessions are carefully planned by the teacher to extend and challenge each individual child. The teacher is able to question, observe and record the learning of each child in the group.

Plenary – before the end of the lesson, the class come back together and discuss their learning and share when they have found something hard or need some more explanation.

Length of these sessions and activities vary depending on the age of children. Children in the Foundation Stage have learning presented in a similar way, but they have lots of opportunities for choosing and initiating their learning.

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, young playleader training, drama sessions with Rob Pudner, a large number of fantastic fundraising activities for charity, cycle training, 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/>