



Chudleigh CE VC Community Primary School

Lawn Drive

Chudleigh

Devon

TQ13 0LS

Tel. No: (01626) 852147

Fax No. (01626) 854032

Headteacher: David Barnett

Email: admin@chudleigh.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.chudleigh.devon.sch.uk

21st April 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move into the final term of the academic year, I'm pleased to be able to write to you again on behalf of the Governing Board. As has been the case previously, I have used the Ofsted framework headings as the basis for this letter, which I trust you will find informative.

Outcomes for pupils

The Governing Board's School Improvement Plan Monitoring Group is meeting early this term to examine in detail the progress of children so far this year. Staff have been working hard to develop a robust assessment framework this year, due to the changes at a national level. Due to these changes, an increased amount of moderation of assessment has been taking place both internally and with other local schools, to ensure that the judgements staff are making in terms of pupil progress are sound.

You may recall that in the past the Ofsted Data Dashboard has provided some information on schools' performance. This is no longer being updated, but you may be interested in a new website from the Department for Education, which allows you to see similar information. This can be found at www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk.

Teaching, learning and assessment

Our local authority advisor, known as a School Improvement Partner, visited last term and was able to confirm our self-evaluation of teaching standards, commenting that, "*teaching is consistently good with a growing proportion of outstanding teaching across the school*" and that "*the school's curriculum is a strength*". He also acknowledged that, "*pupils' achievement is closely monitored and tracked by the class teacher and other senior leaders*".

Personal development, behaviour & welfare

The annual safeguarding audit was completed at the beginning of last term, and no concerns were highlighted by the local authority. Considering whether our safeguarding procedures are effective also formed part of the School Improvement Partner visit last term, and he commented that, "*governors and school leaders have strong processes and systems. They meet statutory requirements for safeguarding arrangements. The culture of the school is one that promotes and places safeguarding at the heart of its work*".

Unfortunately the Family Liaison Worker post is no longer being funded, and the school is considering other options for providing this valued service.

Leadership & management

The work of the school leadership team continues to focus on the School Improvement Plan. Our School Improvement Partner noted that, "*the Headteacher and Deputy work effectively to promote a clear vision for the school...and leaders have identified and prioritised the right areas for improvement*".

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In our last letter, we referred to some of the challenges we face as a school, relating to both the local and national context. We were expecting a record-number of applicants for places in our Foundation Stage from September 2016, and this was indeed the case. We have been in close contact with the local authority with regards to this intake and the expected ongoing increase in numbers due to the housing development around the town. The Governing Board decided to accept a maximum of 70 children into the Foundation Stage in September (an increase of 10 against our usual maximum). The local authority has just confirmed that they have offered places to 67 children, so we are now able to start planning how best to accommodate and meet the needs of the children.

We also mentioned the increased focus on collaboration from Ofsted. Many of you will be aware that subsequent government announcements have indicated that all schools must become, or be in the process of becoming, academies by 2020. Whilst this has caused much alarm nationally, we can reassure you that the Governing Board has already undertaken a great deal of work this academic year in assessing opportunities for further collaboration with local schools, including whether to consider becoming an academy. This work is ongoing but at the heart of any decisions we take will be the benefits for the children in our school.

Further information

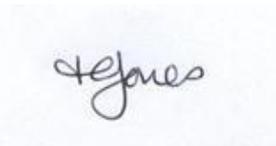
We will soon be looking for a new parent governor to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Governing Board. More details will follow in due course, but if you think this may be of interest, please take the opportunity to look at some of the information on the school website or speak to myself or other governors about what is involved.

As always we welcome feedback from parents, and our 'comments, congratulations and concerns' forms are available in the school foyer. These provide an opportunity to bring areas of concern (of a whole-school rather than individual nature) to the attention of the Governing Board, and also to pass on congratulations/thanks, perhaps to a member of staff. Forms can be completed anonymously if you wish. Minutes of our Governing Board meetings are available on the noticeboard in the foyer or on the school website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and governors for their continued hard work and commitment to improving the outcomes of the children at our school.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,



Hayley Jones
Chair of Governors

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