



Dear Parents and Children,

I can't believe we are nearly at the end of the spring term. The children have been producing some amazing work around this term's topic of construction. Governors recently visited school and it was great to see such a positive attitude towards learning. In all classes, children were engrossed in what they were doing and able to talk knowledgeably about the task in hand. We are very proud of the high teaching standards maintained at Beaford by Miss Yates and all her staff.

Governor Changes

Mark Bowen has completed a four year office as a member of the school's governing board. Mark's experience and commitment to the role has been invaluable. Over this time he has chaired the finance committee, as well as supported the school with a number of premises projects, in particular the development of the school grounds and installation of new play equipment. Although Mark has finished in this role he will still be available to support the school with future projects.

Matthew Millichope has been appointed as a co-opted governor from January 2017. He has worked in local government for 23 years, currently in the employment of Torridge District Council as an Environmental Protection Officer.

He says, I have two sons who attend the school and since their admission, I have watched and experienced their impressive development assisted in the main by the attentive and caring nature of the teaching staff. I have a very keen interest to ensure the school continues to deliver high standards of education in a caring and supportive environment. As well as being keen to promote a good education to my children, I also emphasise the need to have and participate in activities and interests outside of the school environment. For example, my sons attend swimming lessons and show a general interest in sport. Recently as a family we participated in a charity run raising a significant amount of money in the process.

Matthew will be part of the Finance, Personnel & Premises committee and also the governor with responsibility for Health & Safety.

PTA

Please keep a look out for and support all the wonderful events, raffles etc. that our amazing PTA are organising throughout the year. The funds that you all raise make a significant contribution to the school.

Online Safety

Keeping children safe online is an ongoing discussion point for many families. Applications, ways of communicating with friends and games that children use are always changing and developing and staying informed of the ever evolving possible risks and dangers is hard. Knowing what controls will keep your children safe but at the same time allowing them to learn to be safe online can be a challenge.

A workshop for parents, run by the NSPCC, has been organised for the Friday 12th May at 2.15pm.

Other useful information can be found:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

NSPCC website – information to help parents keep children safe online.

[thinkuknow](#) - containing internet safety advice for those aged from 5 to 16, along with parents and teachers, this site is produced by CEOP (the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre). Provides a link to report to CEOP if someone acted inappropriately towards you online, or to a child or young person you know. This may be sexual chat, being asked to do something that makes you feel uncomfortable or someone being insistent on meeting up.

[kidsmart](#) - An award-winning internet safety programme for children.

[Know IT All Resources](#) - lots of useful advice for keeping yourselves and your children safe on the Internet.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/0/21259413>

BBC webwise – Top ten tips for internet safety.



Health and Safety Audit

The school has recently very successfully passed a Health & Safety Audit carried out by Devon Local Authority. The audit checks across a wide range of areas from Fire Safety and Legionella to School Trips and Curriculum safety. Staff and governors work hard to ensure the safety of children and adults on the school site.

Multi Academy Trust

The school's application to convert to an academy and form part of the Three Moors Multi Academy Trust with Great Torrington School are still in place and waiting for authorisation from the DFE.

Parking and School Transport

As the number of children in the school is increasing, so are the number of cars around at the start and finish of the school day.

If your child is eligible to use school transport please consider using this and help reduce the number of vehicles around the school at busy times.

All drivers – please be aware of your speed and take consideration of local people when you park. The ideal and safest place for parking is at the village hall.

Wishing you all a fantastic Spring break and a very Happy Easter!

With kind regards from Alison Bennett and the Board of Governors