



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Christmas is almost upon us and the school is buzzing with the excitement of all the activities going on! The children have obviously enjoyed their recent learning theme about Monsters and Mysteries; we have seen some very imaginative and accomplished work in their books and displayed in the classrooms.

Governors have been visiting school to monitor progress and ensure that everyone is working towards the targets set earlier in the year. It is always a pleasure to visit the classrooms and see how engaged the children are with their lessons. They are always happy to share with us what they are learning.

Parent Workshops

Thank you to all parents who attended the open classroom sessions held throughout the first term. It is hoped that the sessions will have provided parents with a valuable insight into your child's learning. A big thank you must also go to the teaching staff for their efforts in arranging the sessions and taking time to speak to parents. It is appreciated that not all parents are able to attend the open classroom sessions. However, the information can be found on the school's website on the Home Learning page. It is hoped that the information will enable parents to share in your child's learning journey as well as support and assist them in their development.

School Improvement Plan

This year staff and governors are working towards these priorities for continuing to develop and improve the school:

Priority 1

Secure excellent **Teaching and Learning** through:

Professional learning and development that focuses on:

- Exploring the effectiveness of pre-teach strategies and the impact they have on identified groups of learners
- Skilfully use efficient feedback to maximise children's learning and progress
- Ensuring children's choice, thought and depth of learning are part of every learning session

Priority 2

Strengthen further the effectiveness of **Leadership and Management** by:

- Developing the role and responsibility of a new middle leader
- Foundation Subject Teams monitoring the depth of learning and quality of outcomes in foundation subjects
- All governors demonstrating the skills to robustly support and challenge the performance of the school

Priority 3

To continue to build and design an excellent **Curriculum** that promotes depth of learning and opportunities for all pupils by:

- Providing high quality learning opportunities that allow pupils to learn at depth in all foundation subjects
- Continuing to develop the quality of final outcomes
- Extending provision and opportunities for children's learning through scientific enquiry

English Key Priorities

- Improving spelling skills of children in Key Stage 2
- Embedding the new handwriting expectations
- Reading – Improving children's inference and comprehension skills

Maths Key Priorities

- Improving children's knowledge and application of maths key facts
- Maximising opportunities for higher attaining children to work at depth

Update on Academy Status

Plans for conversion to an academy status and being part of a Multi Academy Trust with Great Torrington School are not currently going ahead. Our school, for the present, will remain a Local Authority School.

Lunchtime Clubs

A number of clubs are run by staff and children over the lunchtime break session. Children in year 5 and 6 who have committed to running these clubs over the term have taken a great pride in organising and leading these activities. Lunchtime clubs run by children include:



- KS1 football
- Basketball
- Bird watching and bug hunt
- Running Club
- Fun games

Clubs that have been run by staff include:

- Netball
- KS2 football
- Choir
- Drawing
- Construction

PTA

Governors would like to say a big thank you to the PTA for another successful Christmas Fair and providing refreshments for the School presentation

Governor Vacancies

In January we will be holding elections for parent governors. Governors have a key role in the development and oversight of the school. A governor has a term of office of four years and is expected to attend meetings which happen during the day in term time. Governors meet a minimum of once a term.

We are particularly looking for people with one or more of the following skills:

- knowledge of curriculum development, school assessment and progress/attainment within a primary school
- Experience of financial management (this would not have to be within a school), this includes budgeting, forecasting and driving financial efficiency
- Knowledge of child protection and safeguarding
- Knowledge or experience of the Early Years

Any person who is applying to become a Governor must:

- be prepared to undertake a DBS check and attend safeguarding training
- have an interest in children, young people and education
- support the school's aims and objectives and promote the interests of the school and pupils in the community
- co-operate with other governors in the interests of the school
- understand that being a governor requires commitment of time for meetings, reading, sharing the workload and visiting the school in school hours and have the wellbeing of the school as your prime consideration
- understand that a governing body is a corporate body seeking to raise standards for children and young people in the school
- not use your position to gain any personal benefits
- respect the need for confidentiality on certain items and abide by any Code of Practice that the governing body has agreed
- be willing to develop their role as a governor through attending training and development programmes
- regularly attend meetings (you may be disqualified if you miss meetings for six months or more)
- recognise that as part of a governing body you are publicly accountable for your actions and performance
- reside relatively near the school

Full training and induction will be provided. If you are interested and would like to know more about the role of governor please speak to the headteacher Annette Yates or Alison Bennett, Chair of Governors.

Thank-you to Annette and all the staff for providing such a nurturing and stimulating learning environment.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

With kind regards from Alison Bennett and the Board of Governors