

Governors' Newsletter

July 2018

Thank you to all of those who have worked hard in support of the school this year. The efforts of the teaching and support staff, parents, carers and the pupils are recognised and valued by the governors.

In this newsletter I'd like to highlight areas of Progress and Achievement, the School Development Plan and Finances.

Progress and Achievement:

We have achieved an amazing set of results this year which is a credit to our teaching and support staff and the efforts of our pupils. Excellent results like these do not happen by accident!

78% of children in **Foundation Stage** achieved a "Good Level of Development". This is above the national average for 2017 (70.7%).

Children in **Year 1** are required to undertake a phonics check and 83% of our children achieved the expected level. This is above the national average of 81%.

Our end of **Key Stage 1 and 2** results are in line with or above national averages.

Key Stage 1	At or above the expected standard		Above the expected standard	
	School	National 2017	School	National 2017
Reading	80%	76%	33%	25%
Writing	73%	68%	13%	16%
Maths	73%	75%	27%	21%

Key Stage 2	At or above the expected standard		Above the expected standard	
	School	National 2017	School	National 2017
Reading	86%	72%	45%	25%
Writing	90%	76%	24%	18%
Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation	90%	77%	52%	31%
Maths	93%	75%	21%	23%

Children in Key Stage 2 achieving the standard in Reading, Writing and Maths: 76%
(National 2017: 61%)

School Development Plan:

Each school year the governors agree a plan of goals and targets. This year our focus has been on: Teaching and Learning; Curriculum; Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural; Assessment; and Leadership & Management. Governors are pleased to report that the vast majority of this year's plan has been successfully completed. In particular, significant progress has been made in the continued application of Visible Learning (Growth Mindset) methodology, improvements in Writing and the creation of the school's Eco Team. Next year's key objectives and priorities are under development.

Finances:

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, funding projections for schools are presenting serious challenges in the not-too-distant future. The Resources Committee continually reviews spending to ensure the most appropriate use of funds and we are also looking to maximise the facilities and resources available to us. To this end, I'd like to remind everyone that the school hall is available for private hire on a one-off or regular basis, so if you or anyone you know is looking to hire a space like that, please contact the school office.

A key driver of funding is obviously the number of children at the school. With competing schools opening nearby we need to ensure that we attract as many families as possible. Results from the parent survey indicate that nearly everybody who has a child at the school would recommend it -- so, please do! Spreading the word to friends and family about your positive experiences will be an enormous help in creating additional interest in the school.

Additionally, I'd also like to broaden the network of resources available to the school that we can call upon when the need arises. This could be time to help with minor projects around the school or practical and professional skills that you would be willing to volunteer. Please come and see the governors at opening evening if you feel you can help out.

Despite the squeeze on funding, we are still able to make improvements to the school. Revitalising the library area will be completed over the summer holidays - special thanks to Mr Grogan, Mr Tidbury and Mrs Holliday for making that happen. We are also nearing completion of improvements to the girls' toilets.

In terms of capital funding, we been successful in a bid to secure new perimeter fencing. This work will take place over the summer holidays and I think that this will significantly enhance the look of the school as well as ensuring the continued safety of our staff and pupils. Plans for a new outdoor fenced-in sports pitch are also progressing. A working party has been established to progress this project.

The Friends of Bishop William Ward make a significant and important contribution to the school with their fundraising activities. As you will have seen, Julie Church is stepping down from chairing the committee. It would be really unfortunate if the group was not able to continue, so please do consider whether you are able to run this group and support its continued success.

Finally, we wish the Year 6 children continued success as they leave us for secondary school. I am confident that their time at Bishop William Ward will have prepared them well for the next stage of their journey and as we say goodbye to them, we look forward to welcoming our returning students and new pupils in September.

Kind regards,

Dave Kinzett
Chair of Governors