



Burton Salmon Governor News

February 2015

Foreword from the Chair

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2015 and what a busy end to 2014 we had. Mrs Ingham, Class 2 teacher of 8 years left us and in her place, we gained two new members of staff; Mrs Julie Pinto and Mrs Linzi Copley. Both teachers are settling in very well following a period of supply teaching in December and comments from parents about Class 2 are very positive towards the teachers and to the changes they are making. The new national curriculum was issued and the teaching staff have worked hard to translate this into a long term teaching plan for our school – full details of which can be found on our website. We hope you take time to have a look at it and address any questions or comments to either the class teacher or Mrs Andrews. Finally, with regard to the governing body, all governing bodies in England have had to reconstitute following new government advice, details of which can be found below:

Who are your school governors?

Following reconstitution which will take place formally in July 2015, our governing body will consist of two parent governors, one staff, Headteacher, one local authority and four co-opted governors. The idea behind the reconstitution is to cut down on standardised types of governors and move to having more co-opted members who can be brought in to fill specific skill gaps.

Our governors are:

Mrs Val Bate	Co-opted (Chair)
Mrs Alison Mitchell	Co-opted (Vice-Chair)
Mrs Delia Andrews	Head
Mrs Kerry Newton	Staff
Mr Peter Cressey	Local Authority
Mrs Jo Lelean Mallett	Parent
Mrs Claire Huntington	Parent
Mr Stuart White	Co-opted
Mr Mick Wynne	Co-opted

Finance

We have recently asked ICT services to assess our computer provision in school. Although we think of our ICT being new, in this day and age technology moves so fast that equipment and network systems become quickly out of date. Unfortunately, despite the majority of equipment being just 8 years old, it would seem that some of our equipment is becoming difficult to use and we have many compatibility issues between older PCs and laptops and more recently purchased equipment. This makes it difficult for the pupils to learn new skills when instructions are different depending on which computer they are using or software only works with half the PCs.

With this in mind, we have scoped out a number of changes that we wish to make, including investment in a new server as our current server has malfunctioned and we have been advised that the technology we were using is no longer appropriate for the school's needs. All in all, the whole project will require an investment of approximately £12,000 which is more than we were anticipating but an investment that we think must be made. At the same time, Mrs Andrews is going to purchase several more iPads for use in the classroom which we expect to go down well with all the pupils!

Finally, the teaching staff are looking into investing in the latest Smartboards within both classrooms. Amongst other fantastic features, pupils will be to show work done on an iPad to the whole class with the swipe of a finger and be able to write directly on the Smartboard which is then saved within the document. With this in mind, we are to ask FOBSS to develop a specific program of fundraising to raise that extra investment. We hope that you will all take the opportunity to help and support FOBSS in any way you can, from contributing fundraising ideas, volunteering your time, doing independent fundraising by being sponsored in events such as Great North Run for example or simply attending events and spending a little bit of money whilst having a great time.

SATs

SATs for Year 6 pupils take place w/c 11th May and the traditional Revision Club after school has already started, however, due to there being just three pupils, any results will not be published. For Year 2 pupils, tests will take place during the second half of the Summer term. Please bear in mind that our small cohorts can lead to distorted data compared to larger schools as each child counts for so many percentage marks.

School Development Plan

Our development plan for 2014/15 focuses on two key areas:

1. To develop and implement a new curriculum.

Alongside the new curriculum which has been discussed above, the government introduced new assessment criteria. This has now been developed and adopted in Class 1 and will be implemented in Class 2 by the end of this term.

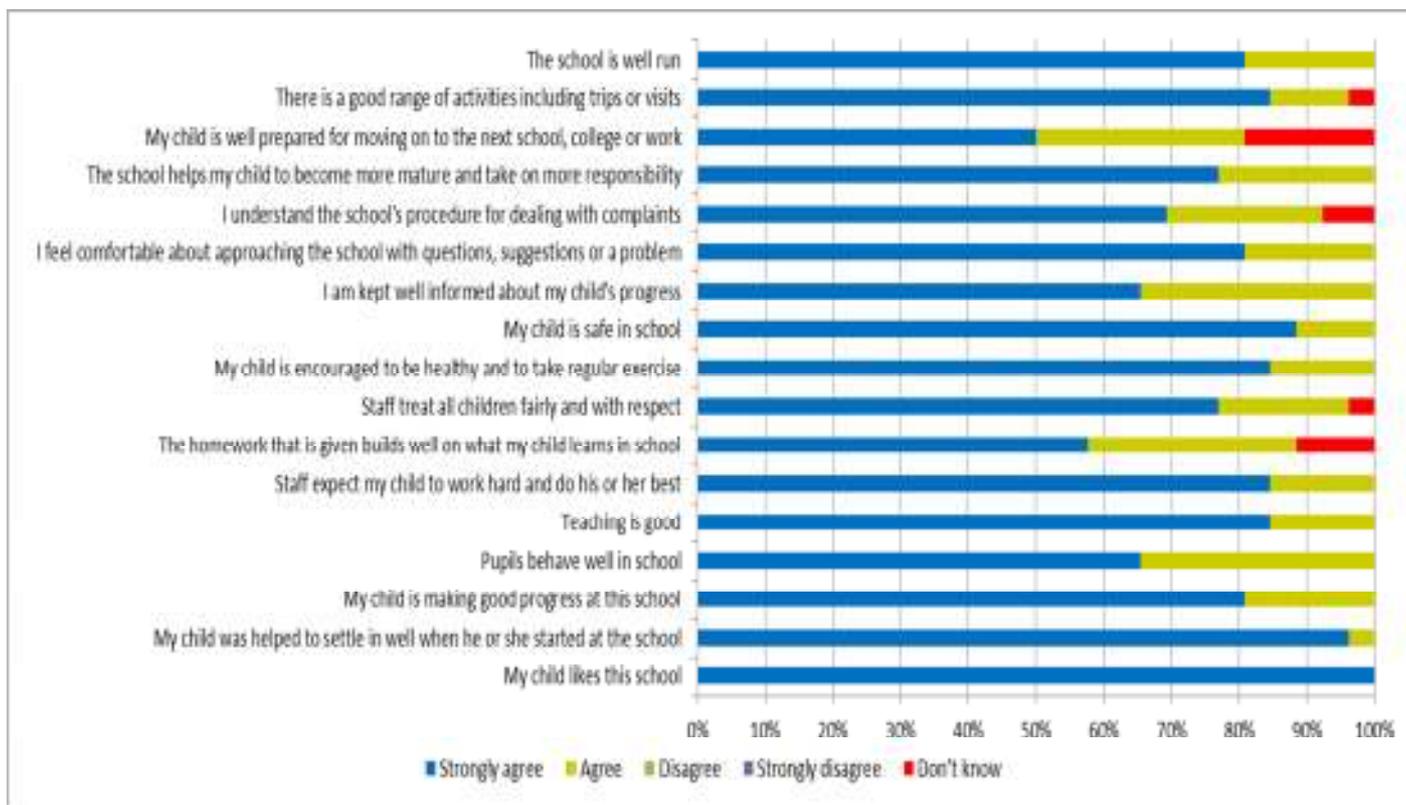
2. To take part in a year-long maths project to raise standards in maths.

Training is now fully underway as part of our large maths project with RAISE Alliance. All teaching staff, including classroom assistants have attended various sessions alongside teaching staff from nine other schools where best practice is shared and new uses for our current resources are taught alongside new approaches. In addition, we have secured some time from one of the consultants to run an evening information session for parents. During this informal and hopefully fun session, she will explain some of the methods that are used in the classroom with your children so that you can have a better understanding of how and what they are being taught. The session will take place on February 10th between 6:30 and 8pm at Fairburn Primary School. We do encourage EVERY parent or carer to try to attend as we know this will be beneficial for both you and your child. Details have been sent home already with a reply slip.

Pupil Premium

Our Pupil Premium for 2014/15 is £11,700. Full details of how we spend this money can be found on the website. The focus so far this year has been on reading intervention programmes which we have seen to be tremendously effective in previous years. Further updates will be available throughout the year as pupils' needs change.

Parent Questionnaires



Thanks to all those parents who sent in the questionnaires. Your opinion is extremely valuable to us and helps us to improve the way we run things and get feedback on all aspects of the school, both good and bad. As you can see from the results, we have mostly very positive feedback. We would also be grateful, if you haven't already done so, if you could fill out the same survey online <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>. This helps prospective parents when choosing schools and is used by OFSTED as part of the inspection process.

Areas to note include 'My child is well prepared for moving on to the next school, college or work', however, from the written comments we understand this to be more to do with children being in lower year groups where it is less relevant rather than being a cause for concern. Several parents didn't know what the complaints policy was and we hope that this has been addressed by Mrs Andrews via the school newsletter directing people to the website in the first instance for the policy and encouraging parents to discuss any concerns with either the class teacher or herself. Finally the homework question was another area to investigate further. In class 2, a brand new homework policy and half termly subject update has been put in place by the teachers and we hope to see a positive impact on the question scores when we next publish the results. If you have any questions at all, please contact Mrs Andrews.

Forthcoming Events

FEBRUARY	
2 nd	Healthy Eating After School Club (4 of 4)
3 rd	Craft After School Club
4 th	Football After School Club resumes
9 th	Hi-5 Netball Training KS2
10 th	Maths Meeting for parents, Fairburn CP School, 6.30pm
13 th	Break up for half term holiday
23 rd	Back to school
24 th	Craft after school club
25 th	High 5 small school competition, Carlton High School
March	
2 nd	Healthy Eating After School Club (Group 4)
3 rd	Craft after school club
9 th	Healthy Eating After School Club
10 th	Craft after school club
12 th	C1 Parents Assembly
16 th	Healthy Eating After School Club
17 th	Craft After School club
18 th & 19 th	Parents evening
23 rd	Healthy Eating After School Club
24 th	Craft after school club
27 th	KS2 Indoor athletics
27 th	Break up for Easter holidays
April	
13 th	Training Day
14 th	Back to school

We hope you have found this newsletter informative. Please remember that school has an open door policy. If you have any questions about any aspect of your children's school life, please do speak to your class teacher or to Mrs Andrews.

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please ask us.

যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

