



Burton Salmon Governor News

December 2015

Foreword from the Chair

Welcome to the first newsletter of this school year and my first as Chair.

Since our last newsletter, our Governing Body (GB) has been formally reconstituted (July 2015) and we now have some new members with appropriate skills to complement the existing governors.

We aim to provide the right balance of support and challenge to Mrs Andrews and her team, to ensure our school continues to provide a strong level of education for our children.

On a personal note, having been on the GB for the last nine years, I hope to use this experience to help me work hard as your Chair.

Alison Mitchell

Who are your school governors?

Our governing body consists of two parent governors, one staff, Headteacher, one local authority and two 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:

Alison Mitchell Co-opted (Chair)

Delia Andrews Head Teacher

Kerry Newton Staff

Louise Auty Co-opted

Stuart Welbourne Parent

Claire Huntington Parent

Peter Cressey Local authority

Finance

Once again, the school's finances are in a good position as Mrs Andrews and the finance committee keep a watchful eye on expenditure and ensure value for money at every turn.

Indeed, you may notice the wonderful willow sculpture in the grounds which was entirely funded by the Lady Elizabeth Hastings trust.

In our last newsletter we talked about money that was to be raised by FOBSS towards a new smartboard in the dining hall. We are pleased to say that this is now up and running and together with additional teaching hours, is being fully utilised by Class 2 in particular.

Investment in extra teaching hours has been extremely well received by everyone from parents and pupils to teaching staff. Teaching of maths and literacy in small groups of circa 15 pupils is a luxury in this day and age in a community school but the benefits it has on pupils' achievement are clear.

SATs

Our SATs results for the school year 2014/15 were really very good. Unfortunately, due to a cohort of just three (!) in Year 6 last year, the results will not be published but we can reveal that all made or exceeded the expected progress across all subjects which is wonderful.

In Key Stage 1, 84% of pupils achieved Level 2 and above. From these, 50% went on to reach level 3 in Reading and Writing and 34% achieved Level 3 in Maths. Well done everybody!

School Policies

The school website contains lots of really useful information for parents and really is worth a visit. You can find anything and everything to do with school life from newsletters and permission slips to all our key policies and procedures so if ever you need information, please visit the website in the first instance.

In particular, it is worth noting that the policies section contains much more than just procedural information. You can also find the school's Calculation Policy. This document shows you HOW we teach maths in school by year group and shows the methods behind the calculations. This is a fabulous resource if you need to answer your child's question about homework for example or are simply interested in learning more about modern teaching methods as they are often different from the way some of us learnt at school.

Other information includes what happens on bad weather days, how we store and use your data, what to do if you want to complain, and what is the school's policy on homework.

If you can't find what you are looking for, please let Mrs Wilkinson in the office know and she can direct you to the relevant section or can update the website if there is something missing that you think would be useful.

Pupil Premium

The Pupil Premium was introduced by the Coalition Government in April 2011 to provide additional support for looked after children and those from low income families.

The extra funding is made available to schools to help them narrow the attainment gap that still exists between pupils from disadvantaged and those from more affluent backgrounds.

Our Pupil Premium for 2014/15 was £11,700. Full details of how we spent this money can be found on the website but included such things as reading and maths intervention schemes.

This year's funding will be £10,600 and further updates on where it is being spent will be available throughout the year as pupils' needs change.

School Development Plan

Our development plan for last year focused on two key areas:

1. To develop and implement a new curriculum.

This is fully implemented across the whole school and two year (Key stage 1) and four year (Key Stage 2) plans across all subjects can be found on the school website, under the Curriculum heading.

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

Maths has been and continues to be a focus area and the children have been exposed to many different approaches to keep it interesting and relevant. Intervention programmes have also been implemented for those children who need a little bit of extra coaching to build skills and confidence.

The new development plan for 2015/16 has been adopted by the governing body and consists of the following three priorities. Regular updates on progress will be given throughout the year.

1. To further raise standards in literacy by improving spelling and grammar across the school to ensure all pupils make at least expected progress and better.
2. To enhance multicultural provision in our curriculum through visits and visitors to school and to promote British Values.
3. To ensure the new Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 class split runs smoothly with consistency of approach in teaching and behaviour.

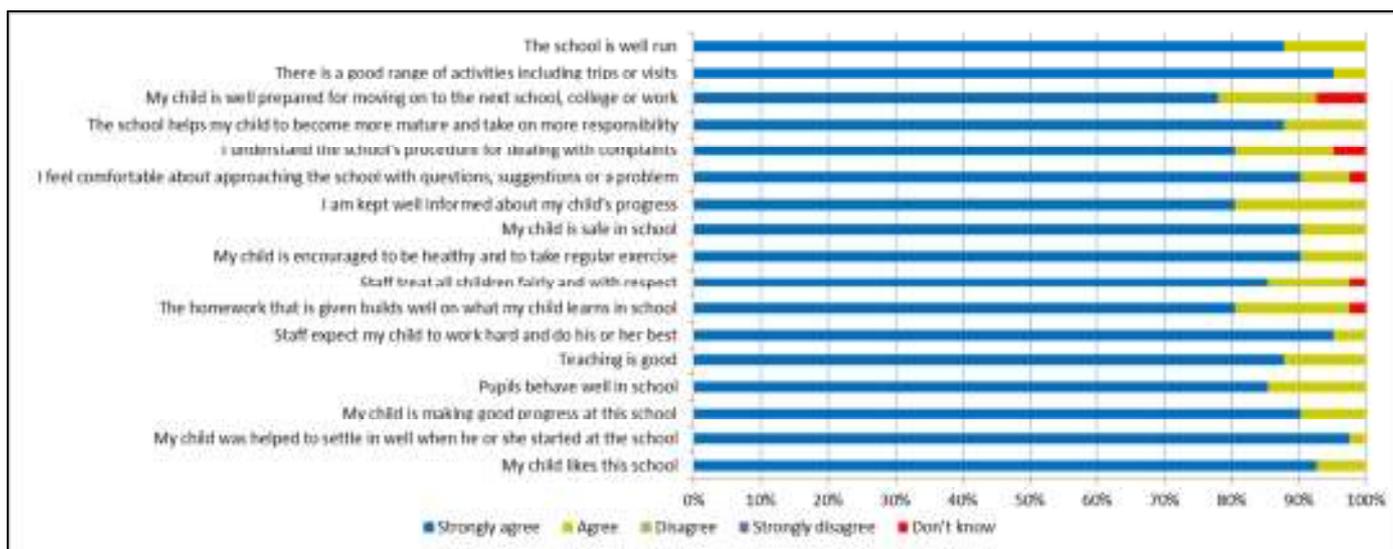
Sports Premium

The amount our school receives from the government as a Sports Premium is £8,000.

Information below indicates the types of things we spend our money on:

- hiring qualified sports coaches to work with pupils and teachers
- providing existing staff with training or resources to help them teach PE and sport more effectively
- running sport competitions
- increasing pupils' participation in the School Games
- running sports activities with other schools

Parent Questionnaires 2015



Thanks to all those parents who completed questionnaires. We had 41 responses in total. 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 above, we have had 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.

Forthcoming Events

Throughout the year, Friends of Burton Salmon School put on a variety of events to help raise vital funds for your school. Many of the events like the Christmas fair, take a lot of organising by FOBSS and are much appreciated by pupils (who get to enjoy so many events).

Raising funds for our school is a very important task and we hope that you can support them as much as you can. This can take the form of volunteering your time (even helping clear up after events is a MASSIVE help), suggesting fundraising ideas or simply turning up to events to make them successful.

EVERY penny you spend goes directly back to the pupils, in subsidised school trips, additional resources and all those nice to have things that make learning even more special. So far this year, FOBSS money has been allocated to help fund over a third of the cost of the Class 2 residential trip that runs every two years.