



Welcome to the Spring term newsletter from the governing body of Bentley CEVC and Copdock Primary Schools.

If you feel you have something to contribute, see the section below on recruiting new governors ...



Jo Austin
Headteacher



Dennis Kell
Chair



Simon Hurst
Vice Chair



Rev Don
Meheh



Louise
Amphlett-Lewis



Tracey Deakin



Ruth Lincoln



Craig Partridge



Rachael Rudge



Mark Schofield



Mark Starling



Jo Willis



Martin Taylor

Parent Consultation - academisation

Although it seems a long time ago now, it was a great opportunity for parents and governors to meet at Copdock Village hall. All governors found it a very positive meeting and are more aware of parents' views to inform our decision-making.

It was clear that the issue of academies was important to many parents and governors. Recent comments by the chancellor and prime minister show just how important this is. Governors are exploring all opportunities that may be open to our schools as we move forward. We have been in discussion with Suffolk County Council, the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich and the Regional Schools Commissioner. We are also speaking with other local schools.

The future of our schools is very important to our whole school community so it is equally important that we explore our options fully. We shall endeavour to keep everyone fully informed as we move forward. If anyone feels that they could contribute to our work as governors, then I should be very pleased to hear from you.

Dennis Kell

Chair of Governors

Class Structure

We have now finalised our school budget and are well placed to make a decision about our class organisation for 2016-17 and beyond. In the past few weeks we have held in depth discussion about how to approach the teaching and learning of our Year 5 and 6 pupils across the federation. All views shared through staff and parent consultation were considered as part of this process. Final details will be shared after Easter, as previously agreed, but we are able to confirm that due to increased pupil numbers at Bentley we are in a strong position to begin the implementation of a third class structure from September this year. This is a really positive move towards meeting our longer term priorities and remains focused on securing the best outcomes for all the children involved in both schools.

Governor visits completed this term

In addition to governors meetings, many of us have also visited the school to support monitoring and curriculum

Learning and Achievement

Don Mehen has been working closely with Mrs Rudge to review the progress of our church school inspection. An action plan is well under way and children have been involved in planning and reviewing curriculum activities about The Lord's Prayer and Easter.

Tracey Deakin has reviewed safeguarding practice and completed the County Toolkit with Mrs Austin to ensure we are following best practice in keeping our children safe from harm.

Dennis Kell has visited both schools to support the curriculum activities during Bird Watch week and has led whole school assemblies in both schools.

Louise Amplett Lewis has met with Miss Young and Miss Cross to discuss provision for SEN pupils which is extremely well co-ordinated across both schools.

Personnel and Communications

Mark Starling has been reviewing the impact since we changed our IT support across both schools. He has also been reviewing E-safety practice and will be supporting the amendments of our Acceptable Use Policy for staff and pupils in due course.

Finance and Premises (including Health and Safety)

Martin Taylor accompanied the basketball teams to the tournament and was extremely impressed with both the organisation of the visit and the children's enthusiasm and commitment to team work.

Dennis Kell and Craig Partridge have attended Parish Council meetings to explore funding available to support our school development priorities.

Simon Hurst has monitored the health and safety procedures in both schools.

Maths bag questionnaire

Thank you to those parents who returned the questionnaire evaluating the use of maths bags and resources. The responses were very positive and the vast majority referenced how the equipment had enhanced the children's enjoyment of maths and reinforced concepts through visual methods.

We acknowledge the importance of continuing parent workshops to ensure support is frequently provided and we will endeavour to continue these where possible throughout the year.

IT update and Website

As you may know we changed our contract for IT support in January. This seems to be working well and we hope to see a continued improvement in access to our new laptops and the 4 new ipads kindly purchased by the PTA for class use. We hope these will prove useful in keeping our new website updated.

The new website will be ready for launch after Easter and our next 'Coffee and Chat' session will be held to demonstrate this on **Friday 15th April (9am Copdock and 2.15pm Bentley)**.

Would you be interested in becoming more involved?

We are pleased to welcome a new governor to our partnership this term, Mr Paul Kerslake. Paul has a strong health and safety background having spent many years in the fire service and more recently as an ambulance driver. He has been involved in school governance before and is keen to take on the challenge once again.

Unfortunately we have also said goodbye to Mrs Charlotte Hodgson and Mrs Diane Evans due to work and family commitments. Their contributions have been greatly received.

If you would like to know more about the role of school governor information is available on the school website and Dennis Kell, Chair of Governors, would be happy to discuss the role in more detail with any interested parties. Please contact the school office in the first instance and we will pass on your contact details.