



Welcome to the Summer term newsletter from the governing body of Bentley Church of England V.C. 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



Paul Kerslake

## Message from the Chair

These are challenging times for all schools and ours are no exception. As school communities, I hope we shall continue to meet these challenges and work together to provide the best education for our children that we can.

On behalf of the governors, may I pass on our thanks to all staff for all they have done to enhance our school communities this year. We also send our best wishes to Mrs. Crane and Miss. Tarrant as they move on to new schools and look forward to welcoming Miss. Wilding in September. We are also delighted to see our year 6 children move on to the next stage in their education and hope they look back fondly on their days at Bentley and Copdock.

Enjoy a wonderful summer.

Dennis Kell

## Visits

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

Paul Kerslake and Louise Amphlett-Lewis visited grammar lessons to explore the challenges that the children face as part of the new assessment requirements in this area.

Don Mehen reviewed Healthy Relationships Education, exploring the materials used to support Year 5/6 in this important topic about growth and puberty.

Educational visits procedures have been fully reviewed and some governors have attended the recent trips to see learning in action.

## Recruitment

We look forward to welcoming Miss Becca Wilding, our new teacher at Bentley, who will be starting in September.

We will keep you updated on the office manager vacancy at Copdock but please bear with us during the start of the new term whilst we adjust.

Our staff across the federation work hard to offer high quality provision for parents, pupils and the wider school community and we look forward to welcoming a new member to the team who can complement the skills already in place.

## Website

Our new website has been up and running since the Spring term and can be found via the following links: -

<http://www.bentley.suffolk.sch.uk/>

<http://www.copdock.suffolk.sch.uk/>

This site contains a wealth of useful school information such as term dates, school policies and regular updates from staff concerning what's happening in class.

Please take the time to read these regular email updates so as to ensure important communications are not missed. If you need to provide us with an updated email address, please let the office know so records remain up to date.

For those more technically minded, our website does have an app available for download on both Android and Apple devices. You may find this a useful method of keeping up to date with the latest news and announcements posted on our site. It allows you to read news and blog items directly on your mobile phone and also access the school's calendar. We would encourage all parents to download this app as it will allow us to contact you free of charge via messaging, giving you speedy access to updates. In the new term we will also be setting up parent logins to the website which will allow us to make full use of the services on offer... watch this space!

Use the following links from your mobile to download the app: -

Android (google play)

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.schoolspider.schoolspider&hl=en\\_GB](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.schoolspider.schoolspider&hl=en_GB)

Apple (iTunes)

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/school-spider/id1030400910?mt=8>

## IT

The schools are now over 6 months into the new IT support contract. Aside from many changes to improve the IT provision behind the scenes, there are changes taking place to how IT is used throughout the school.

Thanks to the hard work of the PTA and continued support of parents at events, we are able to purchase interactive TV panels in 4 classrooms across the federation. This is in addition to the 4 new ipads, also funded by the PTA, which are now being actively used within class.

This is a fantastic opportunity to update and enhance classroom experiences for our children.

## Questionnaires - Assessment

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the survey on assessment which was sent round recently.

This survey carried extra importance due to the government changes to assessment which has started to impact this year.

On the whole, feedback was positive with the general consensus being that the Schools' provide plenty of opportunity to access information about children's learning and progress.

Some of the key points identified were:

- Overall it was beneficial having children present during discussions with parents.
- Feedback from teachers was good.
- Parents feel they have the opportunity to engage with teachers outside of this structure and feel comfortable in raising any issues.
- Some children were understandably nervous, but the consensus is that this is an important life skill to develop.

### Student questionnaire

In addition to the parent questionnaire, students also took part in their own survey on assessment within school.

When we reviewed this with the children, they all reported they had enjoyed parents coming into school to share their successes, stating 'they now know how to help us improve'.

Both parents and children acknowledged the importance of sharing good news as well as areas that need addressing through shared discussion. This is important as close working partnerships between home and school are most likely to make a difference to children's learning and taking responsibility for next steps.

We will be reflecting on comments shared, to ensure changes in the process this year take account of parent, pupil and staff views. Information will be shared in September, highlighting how we will ensure information about year group expectations is easily accessible to parents. It is currently on the school website and we hope to make regular reference to this throughout the coming year.

Parents are encouraged to make an appointment to see teachers if they are concerned or have questions about their child's progress throughout the year.

Many already do this; please feel free to do so too!

### External moderation

Both our schools have received an external moderation visit (KS1) this year.

The feedback we had from the moderators was very positive, particularly about the range of evidence staff presented and the strength of assessment practice in place day to day.

One of the moderators was particularly impressed by the evidence in maths which showed clear understanding and evidence of high quality reasoning and problem solving.

## Would you be interested in becoming more involved?

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 who will pass on your contact details.