



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

If you want to contact the governors, please email our Chair Dennis Kell on the.kells@talk21.com



Jo Austin
Headteacher



Dennis Kell
Chair



Rev Don Mehen
Vice Chair



Louise
Amphlett-Lewis



Tracey Deakin



Diane Evans



Charlotte Hodgson



Simon Hurst



Ruth Lincoln



Craig Partridge



Rachael Rudge



Mark Schofield



Mark Starling



Martin Taylor



Jo Willis

Looking to the future - parent consultation

We are holding a parent consultation at Copdock Village Hall from 6.45pm on 20th January to discuss sustainability for the future.

This is an opportunity to celebrate the successes that we have enjoyed but also to look at what we need to do in the future to ensure we get the best for our children.

We will discuss the potential threats such as pupil roll numbers, financial constraints and overcrowding.

Although Bentley and

Copdock Primary Schools are performing very well at the moment, staff and governors are constantly looking at the challenges which face us in the short-term and long-term future.

Monitoring pupil numbers and finance enabled the schools to implement the current arrangements for transporting Y5 and Y6 children between schools and teaching Y2 separately from Y1 and Reception.

These arrangements have helped achieve the best results for our children in five years.

There will be an opportunity to talk to staff and governors as well as make suggestions via a comment box.



OUR WEBSITE

We are very close to making a final decision on the host company for our new website which we hope will be live by Easter 2016.

The aim is to make it very user friendly so that staff can easily upload new information and communication with parents is more effective.

The new website promises to be much more responsive, with a smart, professional look.

This will enable it to be not just a much better communication tool for current parents but also to attract parents from outside the Federation.

Spread the word...



The open evenings for new children at Copdock and Bentley Primary schools were very well attended.

Parents spoke about the positives of small class sizes and the opportunities available to their children in a small school.

Families considering applying to the schools praised the resources on offer and the standard of teaching.

What was evident is that the best way to recruit new pupils is through word of mouth from existing parents.

We can all help by spreading the word about what great schools are in our Federation and why new families should apply.

New look parents' evening

A new format for 'Parents' Evening' was revealed for Year 5 and 6 this term.

Called 'Learning Conversations', the meetings which involved class teachers, pupil and parents looking at books and discussing progress, were very successful.

Staff also found it useful to review work with children individually before the meeting.

This style of feedback to parents will be introduced to other age groups later in the year.

The new Learning Conversations have been introduced to support the new curriculum and assessments changes brought in by the current Government.

Well done to the staff for the energy and planning that they put in to these three-way meetings.

Governor visits - the part we play in school

In addition to meetings and as part of our monitoring role, governors regularly visit the school to see and talk about different aspects of school life. Here are some of the visits carried out this term.

General

- Simon Hurst escorted pupils on the Rugby tournament
- Martin Taylor worked on securing sponsorship for the minibus running costs
- Dennis Kell attended the year 5/6 residential trip to African Adventure
- Dennis Kell attended the Anti-Bullying assembly
- Simon Hurst monitored the schools' work against the financial standard framework

Learning and Achievement Committee

- Louise Amphlett-Lewis and Tracey Deakin attended parent workshops on IT coding and phonics

Personnel and Communications Committee

- Diane Evans and Mark Schofield met new teachers Ms Tarrant and Ms Charrington to see how they were settling into their new roles
- Dennis Kell spoke to mentors Ms Young and Ms Cross about their role monitoring the newly qualified teachers
- Diane Evans attended the open day for new parents at Bentley Primary School. Dennis Kell and Mark Starling attended the Copdock Primary School Open Day
- Mark Starling monitored IT provision with Ms Rudge

Finance and Premises Committee

- Simon Hurst carried out a Health and Safety check of both schools