

Governor News

Spring 2018

Welcome to the Spring term newsletter from
the governing body of
Bentley Church of England V.C and Copdock
Primary Schools.



Jo Austin
Headteacher



Dennis Kell
Chair



Simon Hurst
Vice Chair



Rev Don
Meheh



Louise
Amphlett-Lewis



Tracey Deakin



Craig Whale



Mark Blackwell



Rachael Rudge



Tony Wright



Paul Kerslake



Grant Houlden



Martin Taylor

Thanks To Parents/Guardians/Carers

The governing body wish to thank parents/guardians /carers and children for their efforts in raising school funds through the "Enterprise scheme" and we will be sharing the amount raised soon, details will be published on the school website. Thank you also to EVERYBODY for your understanding and support during our recent battle with the "Beast from the East" and it is testament to you all that the schools were only closed for one day.

OFSTED

Following an "outstanding" OFSTED at Copdock we are now awaiting an OFSTED visit to Bentley which Teachers, Staff and Governors are well prepared for. Because of the high standards in teaching, staffing and management at Bentley it is presently in a strong "Good" category and our aim is to retain if not better that achievement.

Governor Monitoring Visits

Governors continue to monitor all aspects of school life to ensure progress is being made against school objectives and educational expectations. Monitoring is carried out using regular visits, meetings and learning walks with all interested parties and where appropriate with the Standards and Excellence Officer from the LA. Areas such as safeguarding, finance, health and safety, Christian ethos, IT, educational standards and staff, children's welfare, PE provision and ensuring the schools' financial security in planning the new budget are just some of the areas governors regularly monitor to ensure the highest of standards are being maintained. By the end of Spring term we will also have had a chance to monitor "Writing across the Curriculum" in liaison with Eddie Orija (SEO) and the "Voice in a Million" visit to Wembley Arena.

Governor Membership

Unfortunately, we have had to say goodbye to two experienced governors in Ruth Lincoln and Mark Starling. Their expertise will be missed, Ruth for her background in the Church community and Mark in IT. We wish them well for the future. On a brighter note we have welcomed Craig Whale to our ranks whose involvement with the local community is very welcome and helps to reinforce our range of skills available to the governing body.

If you feel you would like to get involved in the running of two successful schools we do have a vacancy and are ideally looking for someone with the right commitment and with experience within the Church community.

Head Pupils

The head pupils from both Bentley and Copdock regularly address the Personnel and Communications sub-committee in all matters of school life which affects the pupils. It is an excellent forum for the children to get their points across and at our recent meeting included playground etiquette, school meals, pupil behaviour and Health and safety issues. These meetings are invaluable to governors as the information we receive is not filtered by the staff, in fact the Headteacher encourages the children to be as candid as they wish, and gives us a real insight into the areas which may require attention and enable us to maintain the already high standards everybody enjoys in both schools.

Parents' Questionnaire

The annual parent/guardian/carer questionnaire has been available for all to complete and is yet another vital tool for Staff and Governors to appraise what progress across all aspects of school life is being made. The feedback we have received this year will be shared after the Easter break including updates on SIAMS evaluation at Bentley.

Projects

The addition of the conservatory at Bentley, as an extension to Adders Class, has been a tremendous success and greatly relieved the pressures within school with regard to teaching space, and as a consequence plans are well in hand for a similar extension to Foxes Class at Copdock. All the necessary planning, contract and finances are in place and building should commence during the Easter Break. None of this would be possible without the outstanding support and assistance the schools have received from Parents and the PTA along with private sponsors, Parish council and the "Grow your £10" scheme at Copdock. The latter has been driven by Martin Taylor and one which the children have been successfully involved in. Thank you to all involved in these projects.

I.T.

Our schools had a few problems in this area with the original provider, however we have changed provider and this is being constantly monitored. Mark Starling was originally involved but his place has been ably filled by new governor Grant Houlden along with the Deputy Head at Bentley, Rachael Rudge. Although we are still experiencing minor problems we are in a far better position than we were 6 months ago, due in no small part to the constant monitoring and pressure applied by Mark, Grant and Rachael.

School Website

A reminder to you all that communication and information about our schools is available on the appropriate website and we would urge you to use this as an important means of finding out what is going on in school. As well as weekly updates on school news there are also reminders of all significant dates, activities and schemes the schools and your children are involved in. It is so important to check the website at least weekly during term time for all the latest updates.