**CHILTON FOLIAT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Church of England, Voluntary Aided

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Dear School Community – Staff, Parents and Guardians,

**Update from Governors**

We have been given notice that next Monday 16th January, we will be having a SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools).

The inspection will focus on the effect that our Christian ethos has on our children. The principal objective is to evaluate the distinctiveness and effectiveness of the school as a church school. Inspectors ask four key questions:

1. How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of all learners?
2. What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?
3. How effective is the Religious Education?
4. How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?

The Governing Body would really appreciate your support in answering these questions in relation to your experience and your children’s experience here. Your views of the difference we are making in these areas, the impact on your children and your observations of our Christian distinctiveness would be really useful. Some topics may include:

* Stories they tell you at home
* Feedback from Open The Book performances of Bible stories
* Prayers
* Collective worship and celebration assemblies
* Demonstrating Christian values (termly themes: respect, perseverance etc)
* Other faiths
* Christian traditions such as Christingle and church visits

Any anecdotal evidence or reflections would be fabulous, no matter how concise, as we clearly don’t see the difference we make on the children when they are outside the school community. Your thoughts will be exceptionally valuable if you can spare the time before the end of the week, or Monday morning at the latest. Please submit your responses via email to [chair@chiltonfoliat.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:chair@chiltonfoliat.wilts.sch.uk) or to the office, addressed to Sam Wolcough, Chair of Governors.

**School Structure**

Our objective to have a four full-time classrooms operating from September 2016 occurred smoothly and the children are benefitting from this extra space under the wonderful guidance of Mrs Jessop. We are thrilled at how well our fourth classroom has been received and are very grateful to Mrs Jessop for all her hard work in transforming the ICT suite. Based on the recent growth of the school it may be that an afternoon interim solution will be needed to keep classroom sizes manageable and naturally as plans progress you will be informed of the changes.

**Open Morning**

The next Open Morning is on March 8th. Marketing materials will soon be available, and we appreciate your support in spreading the word! The session is suitable for parents of both pre-school children and those with older primary school children looking for a change of setting. We are still welcoming all ages, but space is becoming tighter, so please do encourage anyone who may be interested to come to the school for a visit before we reach capacity! Alternatively a visit can be arranged via the school office.

**Our Teaching Team**

Our philosophy as a Governing Body is that our team is critical to the school’s success, and consequently we chose to spend a higher proportion of our budget on our exceptional group of very experienced teachers. This is the best strategy for a small school. We also have Nicola Spiller delivering interventions and helping with lunchtime cover. She’s full of enthusiasm and has many years of experience working with children.

We would like to congratulate Mrs Weston for being recognised as a Lead SENCO (Special Educational Needs) leader. She is involved in a programme where she is sharing her extensive knowledge and experience with other Wiltshire schools. We are very proud of her, and continue to feel blessed to have her leadership within the school.

**Keeping safe, warm and dry!**

We have been working hard on our commitment to provide a fit for purpose school for our children and staff team. We give special thanks to everyone involved in those recent projects. The new roof surface has been very effective (no buckets!) and the replacement boiler arrived just in time to avoid disaster when the last one gave up! The new the perimeter retaining wall, fence and hedge down Stag Hill has met with hugely positive comments. It is such an improvement and fits with our fabulous rural setting.

This investment was achieved through funding via the Diocese, and we are very grateful for the improved learning space for our children, both inside and out.

**Pupil progress and attainment**

As a governing body we take our responsibility to regularly and rigorously monitor data relating to pupil progress and attainment across the school very seriously. We have confidence in the ability of our teaching team who strive to provide the best possible education for each and every child regardless of ability. When data is published externally we need to be mindful that within our small cohort sizes we have a number of children with special educational requirements who benefit from our warm, nurturing and caring environment.

Statistics are very useful but they can be misleading for smaller cohorts. As you may have seen, the performance league tables have been published for last year’s Year 6 pupils. It was a cohort of 8, each representing 12.5%, which can skew the data, as was the case last year. We have an exceptionally high standard of Key Stage 2 teaching staff in place and look forward to future improved results to match the outcomes of our Key Stage 1 and Early Years Foundation Stage pupils.

**Chilton Club Childcare**

We are absolutely thrilled at the take up and ongoing enthusiasm for our fantastic breakfast and afterschool clubs, run out of our fondly named ‘Club House’. We are proud of our commitment to providing wraparound childcare to support working parents and flexibility for other parents. It is wonderful to see the children so happy at the various clubs that are run and how they complement the fantastic range of sport, craft, language and dance clubs on offer at the end of the school day. We are very blessed to have such a strong and fantastic club team and we thank you for all your support. Given the popularity of the club a recent Parent Mail highlighted booking procedures. Do pop into the Club House afterschool if you have any questions. Look out for more information to be circulated about our holiday clubs over the Easter and summer breaks!

**Fundraising**

We thank the Friends of Chilton Foliat Primary school for all the amazing events organised last term including the fabulous fireworks and bonfire night, Spirit of Christmas and Secrets Room and disco events. This year they are fundraising for IT improvements within the school. The money from last year has been allocated and exciting plans are afoot to surprise the children! Keep watch for changes in the playground! Thanks also go to everyone who so kindly supports those events financially too! The monies raised really do make a huge difference to the children.

**Important Logistics**

To encourage punctuality as a life skill, please ensure your children arrive at school in good time and avoid speeding through the village. The playground opens at 8:40, and children must be brought to the playground to be taken into school by their teachers, unless of course it is raining in which case they can go straight to their classrooms. Children should not be dropped off at the main entrance to the school. If timing is tight, please make use of our wraparound childcare offering.

We are also lucky to have a large car park, but please adhere to the MAX 10m/hour limit, and neatly park alongside other cars. Huge gaps are very frustrating for other drivers who can see ample space, but not enough to squeeze into! Your help with all of these is greatly appreciated.

**Parent Feedback – Have Your Say**

We are proud of the school’s open door policy providing opportunities to meet with teachers and Mrs Weston to discuss your child’s progress and attainment, both at parent’s evenings and by appointment.

We encourage you to share all positive feedback and areas of concern so that we can move forward positively as a team. Our annual parent survey is also an important way for you to provide feedback so please do make sure that one is completed for each family. The form has also been sent via Parent mail and additional copies are available outside the school office. Please pop them completed back into thered box outside the school office by the end of this week.

**Get Involved!**

The role of our **governors** is essential in supporting the school and we are so lucky to have such a fantastic team. They come from all walks of life, with vastly different experience to input towards a shared common goal - to support the school to do its best for every pupil and member of staff, and continue the journey to become Outstanding. Although this is a volunteering role, it is hugely rewarding in so many ways. We have a number of areas where we are seeking additional support and expertise including grant applications, premises, ICT and PR and Marketing. Volunteers can be parents, grandparents or members of the local community. If you would like to share your expertise in any of these areas then please contact Sam Wolcough on sam.wolcough@btinternet.com.

Mrs Weston and the teaching team are always very grateful to **volunteers** who come into school to read with the children and help them with, for example, maths and literacy games. If you are able to help for just a few hours a month then please let Mrs Weston know.

We are keen to have an **early spring outdoor tidy** in advance of the Open Morning, and hope to have a group of helpers available from 2.30pm on Friday 3rd March. Please put it in your diary!

We thank everyone for their commitment and support of the **Friends**. All are welcome to join this group of enthusiastic and fun individuals in the events planned for the rest of the school year, which include a breakfast to celebrate Mother’s day, a Gourmet gamble, a tea party for the Queen’s birthday and a summer event celebrating the Carnival atmosphere of the Olympics in June. Do emailfriendsofchiltonfoliat@gmail.com if you would like to be involved or can help in a small way.

We are looking forward to our next performing arts evening on 25th May at 6pm. This event was a huge success last year and it was fantastic to showcase the skills and talents the children learn both in and outside school.

A huge thank you to you all for your continued support.

With best wishes,

The Governing Body