



CHILTON FOLIAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church of England, Voluntary Aided

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Headteacher:
Mrs Katie Turner

Monday 21st January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

With 2019 now well underway, we write to you with an update on our key priority areas for the school this academic year:

Our post-Ofsted School Improvement Action Plan

The work continues to identify and action areas for development following our last Ofsted Inspection.

- Working alongside our Local Authority (LA) advisors and other external agents, we have identified and implemented many actions driving school improvement. These are documented within our School Improvement Action Plan, a 'living' document which is subject to regular review and impact measurement.
- Prioritising the new Headteacher's time on 'leadership and management' by reducing teaching and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) commitments, to focus on the delivery of the school improvement action plan to ensure the school performs at its best
- Monitoring and evaluating the impact on the re-deployment of teaching and teaching assistant staff to ensure strength and depth of teaching and learning across the school
- Forging a culture of high expectation for all.
- Supporting the development of Quality First Teaching by the careful targeting of training both in-house, within local school clusters and in a regional environment
- Accessing wider whole-school training opportunities via the Local Authority and the National Leaders of Education (NLE)
- Collecting evidence, both quantitative and qualitative based on in-depth pupil progress meetings, identifying next steps in learning and opportunities for further challenge
- Continuing to embed the school's Growth Mindset principles to encourage perseverance, resilience and promote higher levels of self-esteem and self-worth
- Appointing a dedicated Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) to work alongside class teachers to address progress and attainment gaps for children who need extra help
- Providing of a fully trained Emotional Literacy Support Advisor (ELSA) to support and nurture those children in need

- Responding to the Salisbury Diocese Board of Education's new vision for Church of England Schools, "Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good", we too will be collectively reflecting upon the precious elements of our school community that we want to share and retain, and develop a common view of where we are headed on our improvement journey. All of which will be underpinned by an agreed set of values intrinsically linked to our shared vision.
- Addressing feedback from the pupil, staff and parent questionnaires, including: improved communication (we hope some of this is already evident in Mrs Turner's more regular newsletter, and more consultation on this is to come) and more sporting opportunities (the re-introduction of the very popular netball club, and more announcements to come).
- Securing funding for a new classroom for Sika, thereby ensuring all four classes are 'fit-for-purpose' (Note: funding for building works are secured, based on need, via an application process outside of the school's operating budget)
- Developing the Governing Body's role as "Critical Friend" and presenting robust and rigorous challenge to the school as part of our monitoring and evaluation programme, with record numbers participating in the School Effectiveness Reviews with the Local Authority, and looking at ways to deliver improved outcomes within the very tight constraints of the school's operating budget.

The Governing Body is confident that overall, these areas are having a positive impact on our staff and the academic outcomes for our pupils, alongside the more granular elements of the School Improvement Action Plan. The impact of the measures described above have been validated by the LA School Effectiveness Team at the three most recent School Effectiveness Review (SER) meetings held in March, July and November 2018, at which the school was judged to be "taking effective action towards being judged as a Good school at the next Section 5 Ofsted Inspection".

The Governing Body has many demands on its time, and some other initiatives, such as joining a multi academy trust, have been put to one side for the moment, as we focus on ensuring the school is providing the best that it can for each of our children. Becoming an academy is a significant project that would put massive demands on all aspects of the school's administration, leadership and management. We believe you will agree that time and energy is better invested in our children and accelerating the school to at least a 'Good' Ofsted rating.

Our People

- The whole school team is working exceptionally hard to make the changes needed under the leadership of Mrs Turner. She has embraced the many wonderful strengths of the school, whilst also driving the changes required in the best interests of the children's education. Her Commissioning Service formally welcomed her to the school and church community, but her warmth and quiet determination were felt from the outset of her appointment.
- We bid a fond farewell to Mr Shearman and thank him for all his work with us. We welcome Mr Hughes who joins us as the new Class Teacher for Muntjac (Years 3 and 4), with glowing references for his work both in the classroom and in sport.
- We are very pleased to welcome two new governors to our team. Ali Payne joins us as a Parent Governor and Steve Trobridge (a village resident whose children

attended the school) joins us as an Associate Governor. We are hugely grateful to them for dedicating their personal time to the school.

- Our wraparound childcare service, Chilton Club Childcare, continues to thrive and we thank the whole team for their hard work in ensuring this key service operates every day. There are vacancies for a Play Leader role, so if you know of someone with an NVQ Level 2 or 3 in childcare who would like some extra hours please contact the school office, Freya Priddey-Chan or Sarah Phillips via chiltonclubcoordinator@gmail.com.

Our new Classroom and Community Club House

- The fundraising campaign to raise £85,000 to build a new Community Club House on the school site has been overwhelmingly successful. More than £60,000 has been raised in generous pledges, donations and grants, from the school community, the village, alumni and local businesses, charities and trusts, not to forget the achievements of the children with the 'Grow a Fiver' campaign. They touched our hearts by raising over £1,000 with their creative ideas and their entrepreneurial life skills! We cannot thank everyone enough for all the enthusiasm and camaraderie involved in this exciting journey!
- Funding for the classroom part of the proposed project is not permitted to be held for much longer, so with that in mind, the Governing Body is delighted to announce that approval has been given for the groundworks to go ahead in the February half term. Although there is still a fundraising gap, contractors have been instructed to build both the classroom **and** the Community Club House, as doing a separate project for the latter will radically increase the cost of that project. Continued enthusiasm for the fundraising campaign will be needed to ensure the Club House can be swiftly finished and ready for use at the beginning of Term 5 in June.
- There will be some practical considerations and logistical changes during the interim period whilst these works are completed, and more detail will be shared soon. Please rest assured that Chilton Club Childcare services **will** continue to be offered throughout this period, albeit housed in the main school. Inevitably there will be compromises while a project of this scale is taking place, so we appreciate your understanding, and anticipate the end result will be worth it!

Keeping Safe

- Our car park is a great convenience to us all, something so many other schools could only wish for, but it can also be a source of much frustration. To make the most of this asset we all need to act sensibly and considerately. We ask that drivers park neatly in the first available space, thereby avoiding the frustrating situation of gaps between cars that are of no use to others needing to park. Please also drive very slowly, as children walk through the car park and cannot always be seen. We do not want an accident to happen. Flow of cars through the car park is essential too, so please do not 'stop, drop and go' by the top gate, or have chats while driving through the car park as it obstructs access for other drivers. We will appreciate the car park more over the coming months, as we may not always have access to it in the way we do currently, as construction

supplies and vehicles will need priority access. Details on this will also be shared in due course.

We wanted to conclude by saying how special the run up to Christmas was, with the very popular pantomime, brilliant nativity, and further Christmas cheer shared at the church service and carol singing at Tesco! On returning to school after the holidays the children were thrilled to see the freshly painted playground lines. Thank you to the Friends team for arranging this fantastic facelift for our playground and to everyone for supporting the many wonderful events for our children.

This year holds much optimism for the future. Thank you all for your continued support and passion for our thriving school and community.

Sincerely,

The Governing Body