



CHILTON FOLIAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church of England, Voluntary Aided

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Headteacher:
Mrs Katie Turner

Monday 3rd June 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff & Club teams,

Term 5 is such a short one, and with so much going on at school it seemed to have gone even more swiftly! Term 6 promises to be action packed too, so we hope everyone had a good rest and enjoyable half term, ready for another busy term of learning!

The Governing Body met towards the end of term 5. We meet as a group formally 6 times per year, and the agenda is always packed. We felt that it was a good time to make contact with the school community and provide a brief update on a few key areas in relation to our journey of continuous improvement:

School Improvement

Our next Ofsted inspection could happen at any time, and we feel more ready for it than ever, confident that we can demonstrate our school's transformation since the previous inspection in October 2017. Recent support visits from the Local Authority alongside our regular Governor visits have been very positive. There is solid evidence that the recommendations Ofsted identified for improvement have been addressed by the school, and the positive impact can now be seen in many areas, but most importantly in our pupils and their work. It is essential to note that a transformation of this nature only happens with a whole school team effort; thank you to you all.

SATS

Our Year 6s and Year 2s have completed their SATs. The 'growth mindset' approach came into its own as children demonstrated their incredible positivity, resilience and perseverance both in the run up to, and during these tests. A huge well done and thank you to the children and Mrs Pinnegar and Mrs Jepson for all their hard work, we are incredibly proud of you all.

COMMUNICATION

In last summer's parent survey there was overwhelming feedback that the school needed to improve communication. Since Mrs Turner's arrival in September we have seen more frequent and regular school newsletters, packed with useful updates and information, and the website is also more regularly updated. Parent Forums with Mrs Turner have also played an important role in gaining further insight from parents into various areas of school life including homework, etc. Each Parent Forum is scheduled at a different time, hoping to give everyone an opportunity to participate at some point, as they are another great way to get involved and provide your feedback.

GOVERNANCE

One of the three main areas of governance as outlined by the Department of Education is '**ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**'. While the Governing Body continues to communicate priorities, we feel the time is right to re-visit this area. Our review will also take into account the requirements of Ofsted's new Educational Inspection Framework, which is going live from September 2019 and puts curriculum design and quality of education at the centre of its rationale. Our culture, ethos, values and mission help to define who we are, what is important to us, and what makes us 'us', which provides a framework for making decisions. By contrast, our vision is a shared understanding of what our future looks like, while the strategy is our plan to get us there! Over this term there will be opportunities for our school community to feed into this exciting process, through our staff survey, staff meetings, parent survey, pupil survey, parent forums and whole school vision and values themed week. In September we will provide the output from this process.

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Children around the globe are campaigning to raise the profile of environmental pollutants and their significant impact on wildlife and the lives of current and future generations. Now, more than ever, we adults need to think about being role models for our children by **not only talking** about the importance of our planet's health and wellbeing, but **taking action to protect it**. With few transport alternatives to our school's rural location, most of our families come by car. We will be launching a car-sharing scheme to:

- improve on the environmental impact of the school run
- reduce local traffic
- support our Eco-school accreditation.

More news on this exciting scheme to follow!

NEW BUILDING & FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Our fabulous new building has created an overwhelming amount of excitement, and we look forward to using it. Both halves will be essential to the school community, providing Mrs Pinnegar with a new classroom, and the new Community Clubhouse will provide not only a base for our wraparound childcare, but also much needed space for other school and community activities such as cookery lessons, toddler groups and senior lunches. The structure of the building is essentially finished, and the next stage of the project will include the installation of a kitchen for the clubhouse, sinks in the classroom areas, toilets and changing facilities, flooring and landscaping.

This new building has only been made possible by the extraordinary support of the tremendous fundraising activities and huge efforts in grant writing. Fundraising continues and so does the true entrepreneurial spirit of our children and their families. The Silver Smarties challenge raised £171.48 which converts to £342.96 when match funded by the Greenham Common Trust. In addition, a small but focussed team packed bags at Tescos on 28th April and raised an impressive £216.55 which again when match funded will equal to £433.10. Waitrose token scheme in Marlborough raised £244.00 also to be match funded and better still, this month the Newbury branch will be collecting tokens on our behalf! Thank you all so much for your contributions to the many creative fundraising initiatives, no matter how small! It has all made a difference!

Fundraising will continue to contribute towards the final stages of the project. We have decided to approach more suppliers, with a view to obtaining better value for money and of course to ensure the solutions are fit for purpose. At this point we estimate the funding gap to be approximately £15,000. Although this sum is significant, it is certainly achievable, as we've already raised over £75,000! With over £6,000 of match funding still available via the Good Exchange, if we raise £6,000, we would have £12,000! In addition, several grant applications are outstanding and still more due to be submitted, and an auction with fabulous lots will be coming soon!

Please continue to support fundraising activities where you can – an amazing amount has already been achieved in a very short space of time. We are naturally disappointed the project timelines have slipped, but if we are successful in raising just a bit more, we anticipate the new building will be in use in time for the start of the new academic year!

OTHER SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

In addition to the new building, we are delighted to have secured some funding from the Diocese to make improvements during the summer to our existing structure. These will include fire safety compliance, flooring in Muntjac Class, the pupils' toilet facilities adjacent to the school hall. This will make a huge difference, particularly for the children!

LOCAL BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

The development adjacent to the school car park continues, and we can't wait to be able to use the playing fields beyond the new homes for our children's sporting activities. The car park is now at its new size and we are grateful to those using it sensibly and maximising the space available. We are hoping to place railway sleepers along the centre to help with the double parking. Please contact the school office if you might be able to help with this in any way!

WELCOMING NEW PUPILS

Over the coming weeks we'll be welcoming our new Reception children who will start in September. Due to a low birth rate year we have spaces available, so hope you will continue to proactively recommend the school and all the many positive experiences that the children have here, from Reception through to Year 6. Visits are always the best way to see the school in action, and anyone considering us for any stage, is invited to arrange an appointment to meet Mrs Turner via the school office.

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN!

'The Greatest Showman' themed summer fete will be on Saturday 22nd June and promises to be an afternoon of wonder! Thanks to all involved with the Friends for their hard work to make this, as well as all of the events this year, happen. It is to their credit that we have a reputation for putting on a great show! Let's hope we will be blessed with dry weather for the fete!

PET SERVICE

This heart-warming annual service is back again! Bring your pet and enjoy a service hosted at school on Sunday 21st July at 4.00pm.

With best wishes and thank you for your continued support
The Governing Body