



Pebblebed Heath Federation

Autumn Governor Newsletter



Welcome from the Chair

Greetings to all parents and carers of both of our schools in the Federation. This year, we face challenges ahead with the new assessment measures for year 6 and year 2 as bedding in the new curriculum. We need to support our teaching teams to prepare for the inspections that are on the horizon. All of these things evidence that our schools are good schools, that the progress of each one of our children is important to us and that by working together; school, parents and governors we can give the children the experience we feel they deserve. We hope that with your continued support we can achieve our shared aim.

Clare Rooke- Vice Chair of Governors

Attainment

Last year was another successful year for both schools with an increasing trend in attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 at both schools.

In Woodbury Salterton, the Key Stage 2 value added, i.e. children making expected progress from KS1 to KS2, was above national average for all children, including disadvantaged children.

The proportion of children that attained level 4 and level 5 in reading, writing and mathematics was above national average.

In Littleham, Key Stage 2 value added was broadly at or above in all subjects, including disadvantaged children and children with special educational needs.

School Improvement Priorities

This year, our school development priorities across the federation are:

- Use Accelerated Reader to improve reading outcomes
- Improve attendance
- Improve attitudes to learning through growth mindsets
- Improving health and well-being through the development of learning outside in the natural environment and wider school sports provision.

Visible Leadership

This term we have created new roles of Head of Learning at both school. These new roles are crucial in ensuring the smooth day to day running of the school, as well as driving school improvement in key areas.

New website

As part of the federation process, we were successful in getting a reorganisation grant which we have used for our new websites for both schools and a linked federation site. Incorporating Facebook and Twitter feeds, we hope that they will keep everyone up to date with all the information needed. The official launch of both website is imminent!

Collaborative projects this term

Both schools have been very busy implementing *Accelerated Reader* in Key Stage 2. The children and staff are becoming adept at the online quizzes.

Shared professional development this term has included Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) , Inclusion in P.E., *Excellence for All* baseline assessment in reception and participation in *Removing Potential Barriers in Maths* project

Tapestry - Online Journal

Both schools have recently began using an online journal called Tapestry which records all the learning and fun of children's early years education. With features such as adding notes and images and having them immediately available to any authorised person as part of the complete story of the child's life in reception. To have parents able to view and comment on these special moments, and to be able to contribute their own stories of the child's life outside school, Tapestry promises to be very useful.

Improving Attendance

The local authority sets attendance targets which are monitored closely by the Education Welfare Service. Regrettably, both schools' attendance targets were missed last year (Littleham 94.67%/Woodbury Salterton 95.07%). This was due to a number of reasons, however **unauthorised holidays during term** time accounted for an overwhelming number of absences at both schools.

The governing body takes a whole-school approach to maintaining excellent attendance and it is the joint responsibility of parents, pupils and all staff members to ensure that children are attending school as they should be. We endeavour to work with families to make sure that any problems or circumstances which may lead, or be leading, to poor attendance are given the right attention and appropriate support.

The Governing Body request that parents and carers:

- do everything they can to prevent unnecessary school absences, such making medical and dental appointments outside of school hours
- use the school as a support when they or their child are having difficulties and work to form a positive relationship with the school so that there is easy communication when a problem arises
- do not take their children out of school for holidays during term time. If parents would like to make a special request for this, they may do so via the Executive Headteacher.

This year's targets have been set at 96.3% and with your continued support in this area, we are sure that we will improve on last year's figures. Please see the website for further details and a copy of the attendance policy.



Netball teams at recent ECC tournament

Governing Body

The Governing Body at Pebblebed Heath is made up of 15 people representing staff, parents, the community and the Local Authority. They are all volunteers and attend approximately six meetings a year to discuss school business and learning objectives.

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Determining the strategic direction and objectives of both schools in the federation with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement
- Setting and monitoring the school budget
- Playing a part in appointing staff; supporting the senior team and reviewing staffing level and structures
- Ensuring policies are set, reviewed and adhered to
- Monitoring Health and Safety and management of school premises

Portfolio Governance

In addition, each governor has a delegated area of responsibility which they are required to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of.

The areas of responsibility fall under the following categories:

- School Development
- SEND/Inclusion
- Curriculum
- Parent and community
- Finance
- Personnel