



Pebblebed Heath Federation Governor Newsletter



Chair's Welcome

As a Governance team, we will be working to continue to provide excellent opportunities for our students including:

Small class sizes with highly skilled teachers and excellent teaching assistants. Our staff are one of the reasons our students do so well. Their skills and dedication ensure that the progress and outcomes of every child is important.

Continued focus on standards in teaching and learning to ensure the best for our students, and a good outcome for our forthcoming Ofsted inspection next academic year.

Continued focus on the health and wellbeing of our students and their wider development through further external sporting provision, wider opportunities in music and outdoor education like the development of our own Forest School.

As a governing body, through good financial management and site inspections, we have managed to secure over £70,000 from the Diocese to spend on refurbishments on our school. We hope when our students return this autumn this work will be complete and their learning environment will be much improved.

Our senior leaders have also been successful in competing for funding to support developments in our Forest School provision and outdoor areas.

Your Feedback

As part of our on-going self-evaluation, we would like to survey the parents and carers about their views on the school's performance. Please complete the attached questionnaire which we will consider next term.



Improved Sports Provision

As well as focusing on quality teaching in the classroom, we are pleased that there has been excellent provision in wider opportunities including sport. The children have had provision purchased from St Luke's staff; working with us to provide P.E. and after school activities. This has included the chance for some children to participate in gifted and talented sports provision in years 5 and 6 at St Luke's. Feedback from parents whose children took part has been really positive.

Staffing

It has been a challenging year at Woodbury Salterton with staff changes and absence. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Jennie Tweedy, teacher and Federation SENCO back into post. Our thanks to all the staff this year who have gone beyond their role in supporting each other and the children; in particular Mr Nelmes who took on the SENCO role and to Ellen Milford who stepped into lead class 3. Each member of staff has impressed the governing body with their commitment and hard work and we want to thank each and every one.

Assessment Challenges

I'm sure you'll be aware that over the past few years there have been many changes to education and what happens in schools.

The tests have been made harder this year and the way that the changes have been made has been very disruptive. This year, groups in year 2 and 6 are the first year to go through the new tests and the new curriculum. Inevitably when changes like this are made, with so much unknown for schools the results were likely to be unpredictable. We as a federation, will learn from this experience and work to ensure we continue to support our students to be test ready.

This could mean that, despite their hard work and talent, some children will not reach the standards that they were expecting in the key stage tests. Please do not see this as any fault on the part of either your child or their teacher: rather, it is the outcome of changes to the national curriculum and a resetting of the expected standard.

In addition to the tests in Year 6, we will give you an end of term report, which includes the teachers' own assessment of how well your child has done in reading, writing, maths and science. It will also give you other information which will help you support your child as they move into secondary school.

As a parent, you will want to be reassured that your child has continued to work hard and be happy in what they do in school. Their teacher will have kept you up to date on their progress throughout the year but if you have concerns or queries about your child please do not hesitate to raise them with your child's teacher initially.

Pupil reports will go out on Thursday 14th July.



Governing Body

Our Federation governing body has a number of members who are parents. We are happy to talk with you if you want to raise concerns or give us positive feedback. We are keen to ensure good links with our student's parents and carer's and relies on you for our most effective publicity. We also know how valued you are in supporting us with through the PTA, ensuring good levels of pupil attendance and supporting home learning.

As a Governing Body we face an uncertain and changing landscape in education that we have to keep pace with including the Government's academisation program. We will consider these changes carefully and will always act to ensure the best for our student's now and in the future. Please contact me if you want to be more involved with school life.

And, finally, hope that all our staff, students and their families have a wonderful summer break and I look forward to seeing you back with us in September 2016 for another year ahead.

Clare Rooke

Chair of Governors

Follow us on Facebook at *Woodbury Salterton C of E Primary* for diary dates and interesting posts.

Please see our guidelines for use for more information and like us!

