



Birdham CE Primary School

Governors' Newsletter ~ Summer 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ethos

Birdham Church of England Primary School's ethos is firmly grounded in Christian values which inform all school activity, while respecting and understanding others' faith, belief and culture as well as those who do not have a faith or belief. We strongly believe that we must provide a holistic, respectful and child centred experience that allows every child to achieve their full potential, and as such our values are firmly embedded in our *Birdham Charter*.

How quickly time flies as yet another school year comes to a close and we look forward to the summer holidays. An ending of a school year gives one an opportunity to pause, reflect, consider and then plan ahead. It is no different for our school community here at Birdham. This has certainly been a year of challenge, both for the school and the governors'.

OfSTED

This has been a challenging year at Birdham. Hopefully all of you will be aware of the very high standards expected from the children in their end of year key stage tests. The Ofsted report has allowed time for reflection and has helped to sharpen the school's focus towards ensuring all our pupils achieve the very best they can. Our effective assessment system means staff have created intervention groups which focus on pupils who are moving towards meeting age related expectations and pushing other children to beyond age related expectations. Pupils are benefiting from this new approach.

Rev J Mould (Chair of Governors)

Our school continues to receive support and oversight from the Local Authority, and a recent visit confirmed the focus has been on the right priorities, progress has been made and the gap between National and School is closing.

Results

The staff are working very hard to improve results across the board. It looks as if they worked brilliantly; for example, in the most important performance indicator in a school, *Reading Writing and Mathematics combined at KS2*, our score **improved by 21% to 65% (four children)** and is now 4% **above** the national figure.

We know that mathematics has been our priority area for improvement over this last year, so we were also very pleased that this is where we saw our largest subject increase, by 17% (three children) to 65% this year. That speaks volumes for the work all the staff and children have put in to do well this year.



How do we work?

I have introduced a new Governor's Code of Conduct which sets out in detail the purpose of the governing body and how we will conduct ourselves as governors. The governors make regular visits to the school to conduct activities such as books looks, learning walks, interviewing children and viewing lessons to gain a greater

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understanding of teaching learning and assessment across the school. Governors also use these visits to experience the ethos of the school and to view the attitudes and behaviour of the children.

Our school

I have been hugely impressed with the behaviour and care that the children show for one another. I have seen many excellent classroom displays and events. A special delight was the 200th Celebration of the founding of the school, the displays and involvement of all the children was superb. I won't forget the enthusiasm of the 'drummer boys' when singing, *"We've been here 200 years and we'll be here 200 more."*



I would like to thank the FPTA for releasing much of the needed funds, which will enable us to have a new, stimulating library resource, in place for the autumn term.

We are all aware of the need to keep up the good work, search out areas for improvement to take the school forward, but that should never cloud the immense work done by all the staff, the wonderful achievements of all our children and the tremendous support that you as Parents and Carers continue to give to the school. Thank you!

Leavers

We also have to say fond farewell; to all our Year 6 Pupils. We do hope that you have enjoyed your time here and want to wish you Good Luck in the next stage of your educational journey. May I also take this opportunity to say Goodbye to our parents

who will be leaving us for the last time. Thank you all for your support that you have given to the school during your time with us.

Saying Goodbye

This year we have to say a very fond farewell to some staff leaving us, after many faithful years' service. Mrs Treagust joined 18 years ago as a Newly Qualified Teacher and is now off to teach in her children's school!; Mrs Quest, our ECO leader is retiring (again) and after 20 years' service; and finally Ms Power is off to get married and back to do a Master's degree at university – we wish them all the very best in their next adventures! Thankfully after much hard work by my governors and the school staff, all of these vacancies have been filled and so we look forward to Mr Byrne, Miss Rodgers and Mrs Plackett taking up the mantle in their stead.

Who are we?

Rev James Mould ~ Chair
Mrs Sally Lillywhite ~ Vice chair
Mr Mark McCadden ~ Headteacher
Mr Michael Chater OBE
Mrs Louise Knight
Mr Keith Langmead
Dr Susan Monks
Mrs Jill Pownall
Mrs Charlotte Reed
Mrs Julie Smith
Rev Jonathan Swindells ~ ex officio
Mrs Ruth Hambleton ~ clerk

I have asked as many governors as are available to be present at the *Celebration afternoon* -Friday 21st July. Come and talk to us.

Finally,

I do hope that you all enjoy the summer break; if travelling - keep safe and let's pray for a sunny summer that will ensure we are rested and ready for the next school year.