



MIDDLE BARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year, which commemorates our school's 150 year anniversary, has been an exciting one culminating with a celebratory fete and music event for all the community. This was a day when many older members of the village shared their memories of the school over the years. Our school is special – it holds a place in the village, because it is the centre of village life for our children. I believe that many hands and hearts make a school. We are extremely grateful to all who contribute to making it a happy and stimulating place, especially the staff (teaching, support and office) led by Mrs. Tailby, all volunteers, the governors and you, the parents.

We have received the reports about the children's progress this year and this data has been discussed at the Standards and Performance Committee meeting in July.

Here is a summary of the children's achievements this academic year:

In **Foundation Stage** 70% of the children achieved a **Good Level Development** in the **Early Years Curriculum**. This is in line with National Expectations and we are pleased with this result.

In **Year 1**: 73% of the children passed the phonics test. This is likely to be similar to National Expectations too.

In **Year 2**: (end of Key Stage 1) an external moderator confirmed the children's achievement so that in:

Reading: 80% achieved in line with National Expectations.

Writing: 60% achieved in line with National Expectations.

Maths: 93% achieved in line with National Expectations.

We are delighted with the children's progress and achievements.

In **Year 6** (end of Key Stage 2) the SATs tests show that in:

Reading: 57% achieved in line with National Expectations.

Writing: 72% achieved in line with National Expectations.

Maths: 43% achieved in line with National Expectations.

We are disappointed that the new, more difficult tests, together with the challenging curriculum and the new ways of assessing the children's understanding do not reflect the teacher's view of the children's progress over the year. We are presently agreeing with Mrs. Tailby and the staff how



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improvements in teaching and learning will be planned ready for September. These plans form the **School Development Action Plan**. This important working document describes the steps that are planned for the year ahead to raise standards in achievement. We know there is still much to do and achieve. We will share the highlights of this with you in September at the **Vision Evening** so that we can all work together to improve and develop our school.

The Governors are a committed and active group. During the year we undertook a **Review of Governance** to ensure we are effective in working with the staff to support and challenge them to bring about improvements. We followed this up with valuable training in July which we opened to other local schools.

In the next academic year we will improve our **Governors Pages of the School Website**. We want you to be able to access the information you need easily and to provide you with guidance about school procedures. We will also explore the pros and cons of **Academy Status** and inform you of our findings each term.

You can read here about the work of our two main Committees.

The work of the Resource Committee

The Resource Committee is responsible for the financial and operational aspects of the school including the School Budget, Health and Safety matters, Premises and Personnel. It consists of 6 governors having recently welcomed Teresa Street to the team.

The committee meets every other month throughout the year and can meet more frequently during the Spring Term when the Budget is being set. This is in place for the next academic year 2016-17.

This year we have worked on a number of issues to do with premises, health and safety and personnel as well as monitoring spending of the budget. A focus for the committee is the on-going maintenance and improvement

of the buildings. We have a school that is in parts now 150 years old and it needs constant care and renovation. The Bell Tower needs major refurbishment and work will be carried out over the summer holidays. You will have seen a number of other improvements including the development of the Library and ICT suite as well as groundworks and agreement for spending on new learning resources for the children.

As with any small school of less than 200 children (we have just over half of this) financial capacity is always a top priority because budgets are tight. Managing the finances well enables our school to continually develop the very best educational outcomes and experiences for our children. As an example, school trips provide fantastic



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educational opportunities for the children-giving them an understanding of the real world. Parental contributions are vital to enable these activities to continue. We are thankful for the continued parental support you give through your contributions. Without them we could not manage to provide such opportunities.

The work of the Standards and Performance Committee

This year, the Governors very much wanted to continue to develop parental engagement in all key aspects of school life. This was prioritised in the school development plan and worked on all year. At the end of the school year, we can say with confidence that parental engagement has been a great success. Staff have prepared Parent Forums, Class Assemblies, Open Mornings, Parents Evenings, SEN Workshops, an Inclusion Survey and a Maths Morning for Foundation children. I'm sure you have all seen one of the school productions!

To complement our excellent Clubs and FOMBS activities, we have encouraged

parents and relatives to come in to the school to share their knowledge and experience with our pupils. These activities included A Date for Dads, Homework Hints Workshops, Grandparent Afternoon, a Storytelling Event and Community Arts events. There was a question in the parents survey that went out in the newsletter last week about parental engagement – it will be interesting to see if parents felt more involved in the school this year!

We continue to work with Enchanted Creations to set firm dates for the work on our Eco-Area. The Eco-Club are ready to give their feedback to the final design. We would like to see work finished by the end of May 2017, this will mean submission of applications for funding be made by the end of 2016. The next few months will be very busy and very exciting! Look out for further information. We would like to thank the whole school, FOMBS and Annabel Nichol for all their help.

Thank you all for supporting the school. Your views are invaluable to us so please complete the Parent Questionnaire sent to you recently.

Enjoy a happy summer break and I look forward to meeting you at the first event of the next school year.

Bernie Balfe (Chair of Governors)