

Headteacher's Newsletter No 21

30/09/14

Football

This year we will be playing a full part in borough competitions which include knock-out tournaments over the course of the season (September - April), tournaments that take place over a couple of afternoons or a Saturday morning, and friendly matches. The team have a brand-new kit thanks to PACE, and to Mr and Mrs Smith who very kindly arranged the purchase for us.

We have already played a friendly match against Danson which resulted in a 3 - 3 draw (a hat trick for Celal!) and in which a number of year 5 children played for the first time. Well done to the team, Kieran Rowe, Cameron Lock, Lennon Barry, Billy Smith, Billy Brewis, Celal Ozkirac, Bobby Merralls, Anthony Hoang, Dylan Laurel and Joe Metson.

Every Wednesday at lunchtime, year 5 and 6 children are able to participate in a football club and good numbers are coming along. Unfortunately, only one girl so far (well done Connie Chisholm), but I am hoping that more will come so we can enter the girls football competition in the summer.

Netball

Netball club takes place Monday lunchtimes and we have had up to 12 girls and boys participating. We have a tournament coming up so we are practising in preparation. So far lots of very enthusiastic year 5s (well done everyone concerned) - come on year 6, we need more of you to come.

School Improvement

Every year we carry out a self-evaluation of the school from which we draw up an action plan to help us improve to become even better. Self-evaluation has to be thorough and honest but as well as picking up on areas of improvement we also recognise where we have been doing well. Here are some of the strengths we have been able to demonstrate:

- Our Year 6 children attain above national averages in SATs test and there is evidence of good progress for all groups (for example, those children entitled to receive pupil premium funding).
- Children across the school in reading, writing and maths tend to make really good progress.
- Teaching is consistently good and much is outstanding (not just our opinion, well qualified advisors confirm our judgments).
- We are good at evaluating the school and are very committed to keep improving.
- Pupils are happy, safe and well-motivated - children talk enthusiastically about their time at school, their feedback on school experience is very positive and attendance is outstanding.
- Pupils actively contribute to the life of the school, for example through school council, children's committees and by taking collective worship.
- Relationships throughout the school are very positive and pupils' behaviour is consistently very good which impacts positively on learning.
- Creative and challenging activities regularly engage pupils' interest and stimulate learning. The curriculum is rich and includes philosophy, which is enhancing children's

ability to reflect, analyse and think critically and chess, which is supporting thinking ability.

- Basic skills are a focus and the school provides real life opportunities during the year for children to apply them, for example, enterprise week.
- There are a wide variety of clubs before school, at lunch times and after school, including sports clubs, ICT and gardening.
- New interactive whiteboards have begun to be fitted in classrooms and a large investment has been made in iPads, for which staff have been given training to make the best use.
- The house system has provided opportunities for team-work and competition in sporting and other contexts.
- The school has participated in an increasing number of inter-school competitions including football, cricket, netball and rounders.
- The school has employed an IT apprentice who troubleshoots problems, who helps in lessons by giving technical support and who has begun an IT club.
- Government funding for school sport has been invested in provision from “Progressive Sports”. Staff and children have found this to be high quality.
- The school is a part of the “Bexley Collaborative”, working particularly with six other local primary schools in a partnership to help us all improve.

In order to improve further, some of the things we will do are:

- Improve maths even more so children make outstanding progress.
- Promote excellence in maths and literacy in all parts of the curriculum (for example, we are looking for the highest quality of writing when children do history, including handwriting, spelling, good vocabulary, sophisticated sentence structure, etc.)
- Continue philosophy but tie it more closely to the things the children are learning across the curriculum.
- Provide further help to teachers in using new technology.
- Introduce an interim report on children’s progress around Christmas time (in response to our survey of parents where a number indicated that they would appreciate more information on children’s progress).
- Develop the grounds to include a new sheltered outdoor classroom and create opportunities for environmental clubs to be formed.

Of course, there is much more. If you would like to clarify anything here or suggest other ways we could improve, please let me know.

Uniform

We have barely been back a few weeks and already lost property is overflowing the drawers outside the office. Please would you ensure that you put your child’s name on all items of clothes and property. Jumpers and coats are expensive and it will save having to replace them if they can be identified easily and returned.

Dates for the diary

PACE AGM	Tuesday 30 th September
E-Safety Training	Monday 6 th October at 2.00pm
Parents Evening	Tuesday 14 th October
Half Term	Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st October