

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015

*Cross-school Moderation, Collaboration, Governors (1:1s, Resources, Sites Walk, Teaching and Learning), Pool Redevelopment, Athletics Competition, Outdoor Play Zones, MUGA Use, Internet Safety, Year 6 Leavers Award, Messages and Appeals.*

This week teachers have been busy moderating their judgements with other teachers from Hennock and Bearnas. We use this process to help build our confidence and accuracy with assessments against the new curriculum expectations.

On Thursday we had teachers in school from St John's Primary looking at how we meet the needs of children in Puffin class where we have to teach two different curriculums – the national curriculum for Year 1/2s and the Foundation curriculum for Reception. St John's is also a small school with the same challenge so this sharing of expertise is essential to our schools' improvement.

Governors have been busy with their 1:1 challenges this week. Maths, SEN, Safeguarding and SMSC (Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural) link governors have individually spent time with each of the teaching leads for these areas reviewing progress by the end of the spring term and offering challenge where to go next. Their work will be fed back to the full governor meeting next week and school leaders will be accountable for making sure any identified actions are carried through.

Governors' Resources Committee also met this week to review the final draft of the school budget. I am pleased to say that careful management (Mrs Salt stopping me spending) has helped us achieve a healthy carry forward into the next year which means that we will be able to fund future priorities at a level that will support our school improvement effectively. I would like to thank Richard Whiffin and Karen Salt for their very competent over-sight of school finances.

Thank you to Mike Tucker and Tony Fordham whose expertise on a sites walk has been very useful. They have also volunteered themselves to fix all the items that came up on this walk which is hugely beneficial to the school budget and thus allows us to target more money into our core task of improving teaching and learning.

The Teaching and Learning Committee met today to review and adopt the last round of school policies for this year. It was a very useful meeting with governors bringing knowledge and skills from their professions that have a direct influence on the provision for children. For example, we explored in more depth how to better teach equality related issues and how to improve disability access.

On Tuesday evening we had a meeting of people with particular sets of skills and interests that will help with our pool redevelopment. We used the time to brain storm and collate all the ideas that we had received from children, staff and parents. By the end of our meeting, we had come up with a 'Clients Brief' that summarised all the most popular suggestions – around a multi-purpose, flexible use, all-year round, environmental theme. Today I took this brief back to the children who will be working on designs that fit these specifications. They will then share these with their student council reps who will in turn share them with Charlotte Woodend who will bring the ideas to our next meeting of the pool group. Our next meeting is at 6pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May when we will be agreeing a final design and planning the next steps. If you would like to be involved you are very welcome to join us.

Thank you to Guy Pedrick, Nick Kitchen and Adam Pressman who are starting some of the pool clearance this weekend.

On Thursday, Jan took a team of Year 3/4 children to an athletics competition with other schools. They competed in javelin, ball throwing, various running events and different long jumps. All put in a massive effort and represented themselves and the school extremely well. Congratulations to Nathan, Lucy, Caitlyn, Holly, Ewan, Jacob, Sam and to the stand-out athlete of the competition, Tilly O'Neill. Thank you to the parents who helped with transport and to Jan for sorting the pre-event practice, organisation and her wonderful enthusiasm.

Thanks to Jan, our summer playtime outdoor zones are running very successfully and the children are enjoying a wide range of engaging opportunities including art, dance, team games and various smaller games and activities.

With the improved weather we have also been able to take greater advantage of the village MUGA for use in our PE lessons and for after school tennis club.

We have continued our internet safety work this week. Year 5 and Year 6 children worked with the police to learn how to stay safe on-line. They focussed on the importance of keeping their personal details private, how to do this and what to do if they ever felt uncomfortable about anything. I will shortly be writing to parents of these children to invite them to an evening information session run by the police that will help them to know how to keep their children safe.

Year 6 started on their Leavers Award this week. This is a scheme to make their final weeks at primary school rewarding, engaging and productive. They will be working to achieve a bronze, silver or gold award by completing activities in the following categories: adventure / personal challenge, legacy, creative, school community, wider community, progress and environment.

Swimming: please remember to return your slips because swimming starts next Friday and if there are any adult volunteers please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you

Pool Redevelopment Appeal:

- Are there any tree surgeons out there who would be willing to give some of their time to help clear the conifer trees around the pool area?
- Does anybody have a large trailer to help with removing debris?

Safe Shoes. In the summer weather, please continue to send your children in sturdy robust comfortable shoes. Sandals and flimsy ballet type shoes are not appropriate or safe for the range of activities that the children get involved with at playtimes. Thank you.

Enjoy the weekend and I look forward to seeing you at the Mayday celebrations on Monday complete with our wonderful dancers.



This week's winning internet safety poster is by Evie Waldron, as chosen by the student council.