



The Federation of Culworth CE and Boddington CE Primary Academies

Small Schools With Big School Opportunities



Governor News October 2014

At our first governor meeting of the year Gill Nunn was re-elected Chair of Governors, and Helen Stephenson as joint Vice Chair (Boddington) and Steve Allen as joint Vice Chair (Culworth). We would like to welcome some new Governors who have joined us over the last year including Lynn Bynn (Parent Governor Boddington), Rick Walton (Foundation Governor Culworth) and Ed Gibbs (Foundation Governor Culworth).

A full list of the governors with photos will shortly be on display in both schools to help you identify who is who.

The governing body has five main committees Finance, Premises, Personnel, Performance Management and Curriculum. Each governor serves on at least 1 committee as well as the main governing body. Governors also undertake a planned programme of visits to the school and report back to main Governing Body meetings.

This year we will also aim to have governors available at Parents' Evenings in both schools for you to talk to.

Huge thanks go to Delyth Bending and Brigid Turner from Boddington and Ewan Shelton and Tracey Liebling from Culworth who have all stepped down as governors.

Do you know someone who has children who will be starting school next September?

Please recommend our village schools!

Loving Learning Educating Everyone

Multi Academy One Year On

We have been an Academy for a year now and have been very pleased to see some real benefits from our joining together with other primary schools in the Chenderit cluster. In particular we are delighted that the staff have forged strong relationships which they are using to support best practice across the schools. For example Chacombe recently led the planning for the new curriculum introduced this autumn and Boddington and Culworth were able to benefit from the work Chacombe had already done.

Mrs Lawrence has told us that she will be running some sessions after Christmas to introduce Parents to the new curriculum and in particular to the new assessment approach that all schools in the cluster will be using. All schools will be running similar sessions so if you can't make the dates we run – you would be welcome to go to another school's meeting.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Following last year's comments in the parents survey 2013 we have worked hard to develop a before and after school service. We undertook research into the services other schools provided and visited a number to view what was on offer.

At Culworth we now have a supervisor in place and just need to find an assistant and we will then be able to open our doors. The Governors have decided to offer this service for a year and to then review it. It must by that time be self financing. There was considerable interest when we undertook the survey and we would encourage you to make use of the service.

Parents' Survey 2014

Thank you to all who returned questionnaires in our 2014 parents' survey. We received 60 questionnaires which is a 43% response rate.

All of the feedback has been analysed and Mrs Lawrence will use the results with the Governing Body to plan the priorities for this year. A summary of the results is included below.

The governors and staff are pleased that parents remain so happy. The chart summarises the results by question but basically blue shows agreement. This data is consistent with previous years' positive results and together with the comments show the school is doing a good job.

Some of the common themes included:

- Teaching & Topics

There was good feedback on the teaching and on children's progress and universal approval of the topic based approach. Parents could see clearly how this approach had engaged their children.

- Pastoral Care

There were again many positive comments on the nurturing, warm and caring atmosphere in

school. Parents felt they could talk to school and that their children were well looked after. The word caring was used repeatedly.

- Communication of Diary Dates

There were also a number of comments about the late communication of dates especially for working parents who are trying to balance a lot of commitments. *(Mrs Lawrence tries to notify parents as early as possible and will consider what else could be done.)*

Some of the wonderful comments parents made included:

'Fantastic school, very close knit, values excellent, teachers wonderful fair but firm. Overall a lovely environment.'

'A welcoming family atmosphere where teachers know all children and parents, children's confidence and self-belief is nurtured as well as their academic achievement.'

'I think the school encourages the children to thrive. Progress in numeracy and literacy is good. It is a happy school which offers all sorts of opportunities.'

'We have happy children who are enjoying their education!'

Culworth Parents' Questionnaire 2014

