

Valuing ourselves. Valuing everybody



Beenham Primary School

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End of Autumn Term 2019 letter to all in the school community

Dear children, staff, parents, members of the PTFA and governors

Beenham School has really shone this term with many outstanding achievements. This is at a time when the education system has significantly reduced school funding, and pupil numbers particularly in our area of West Berkshire, continue to be a good deal lower than 5 years ago. Everyone is having to work that much harder, particularly in a small school like ours, to bring about the quality provision that we all want for children who attend Beenham Primary School.

My first acknowledgement must go to my ever dedicated and hardworking staff. As we come to the end of the term and undergo our assessments of pupil progress, the impact of their work this term has been exceptional:

- We have a robust SEN (Special Educational Needs) intervention programme delivered by trained Teaching Assistants. This programme combined with very good teaching in the classrooms has brought about excellent rates of progress this term. For example in key stage 1 and lower key stage 2, in just 3 months we have seen children making an average progress of 8 months in their reading and 5 months in their spelling.
- In upper key stage 2 there is a well thought through and detailed Maths accelerated learning plan, intended to enable some pupils to catch up and meet the expected standard by the end of the year. A review of this programme and a recent maths assessment has shown that more pupils than we expected are now on track.



- We are very proud of our topic teaching at Beenham Primary School. Many years ago when the school was larger and we had a greater capacity, we did a good deal of training and show casing of our topic model to other schools. There is now a new OFSTED framework that wants to see a curriculum like the one we offer. This term we have started to refine our model to meet the new requirements, so that we can plan for greater progression across the year groups and are also able to assess pupils in subjects like geography and history. Governors have scrutinised our work so far and were very impressed by the journey that we are on. We will continue work in this area for the rest of the year.

Next I would like to say a massive thanks to our dedicated office staff who support everything that we do in school. We are a very busy place with lots going on, but the ladies' attention to detail make sure that things always go as smoothly as is possible.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the school governors. They are very much a newly formed group but already have strategic plans in place that check the work of the school and hold us to account on a regular basis. Padraig O'Hannelly is chair and James Tobin is the vice-chair. Other parent governors are Karen Catlin, Kim New and Liz Mylum. This term they have undertaken two monitoring sessions in school. They would also like to thank you for taking the time to complete the parent questionnaire on the nights of the nativity performances. The results are currently being compiled and they will give you feedback next term.

This year the PTFA have excelled themselves with the Christmas Fayre. Not only was it attended by many people and it also had such a great atmosphere . . . but It raised £1600 for the school. That was exceptional. Thank you so much to everyone who was involved.

The Christmas Play was amazing and the children's performance was truly wonderful. The staff worked as a great team in pulling the production together and thanks to parents, lines were learnt at home and children were supplied with fantastic costumes.

Mrs Russell led the Christmas singalong this year. Although I didn't attend, I understand that it was a great event and fun was had by all. We love to sing at Beenham Primary School.

I think to sum up, we are a school that works hard but also likes to have fun! We have great people involved in the daily life of the school who know how to work as a team. With these attributes I am looking forward to a new year in 2020 and seeing us achieving even greater things.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all and wish you a fabulous Christmas and a successful and happy new year.

With very warm wishes

Sue Butcher