

Dear Families,

Congratulations to all children at BFS for making such excellent progress across the board in reading, writing, maths and foundation subjects this year. Everyone has worked hard and deserves a huge pat on the back. Thank you to all our wonderful staff for making the curriculum so interesting and inspiring. Thank you to our very energetic fundraising PTFA team for organising so many enjoyable events and being supportive of enriching the educational experience at BFS with external visitors and specialist equipment. Thank you to all who clean and tidy around school; our smart school reflects our high standards and the children have expressed how proud they are of their clean school. Thank you to all our staff, in particular our office staff who have endured a challenging term with a new computer system. Thank you to our neighbours, Parish Council and generous community who have funded repairs to features of the old building and features of the new building, preserving our school's heritage for generations to enjoy.

Thank you to all our supportive parents, who celebrate school festivals, provide for special events, attend parents' evenings, recitals, assemblies and concerts; who engage with PTFA initiatives as well as provide us with constructive feedback so we can fine tune aspects of school life to enhance the learning environment for our pupils. As we experienced previously, we hope our current forum discussing parental feedback will be just as beneficial.

The summer term is a time for the children to enjoy the fruits of their labour and the weather has been celebrating too. The sporting practice in afternoon clubs and PE lessons have culminated in competitive fixtures inside and outside of school with great effect. Blackwell, Charford, Millfields (BCM) games, racquet tournament, multi-sports, bell boating to name a few. The team working and skills demonstrated by competitors have been very impressive. Examples of individual endurance and determination have been in abundance as well as strong team cohesiveness in sometimes challenging circumstances, the heat on Sport's Day in particular.

Congratulations to pupils on their artwork. We are very proud of the artwork displayed in and around school. Visitors and Governors often comment what a high standard they see. We are so pleased that this has been recognised in our platinum Artsmark achievement and through exhibitions in Worcester Cathedral and The Chateau Impney. Red class has shown the children's personal development in their very engaging assembly. Others have had the chance to grow in drama with special sessions under the guidance of South Bromsgrove High School Subject Leaders. I marvel at the maturity of the musicians who have played their instruments in recent recitals. Congratulations to all pupils who have surprised themselves this term by their own achievements.

There have been significant developments across the Curriculum this year broadening and deepening the application of skills. Mental maths agility with 3 minute dashes has looked very challenging especially in Blue class, as well as teacher training in what I might call traditional methods, being from the olden times, using equipment that allows children to physically manipulate and see number values. Project themes throughout the year give scope for broadening and deepening our skills and understanding. In foundation subjects sequences of learning have been developed and new sources accessed. Reading and writing progress has been accelerated by using no nonsense spelling and initiatives that focus on high frequency word recognition through precision teaching. The teaching and learning planned for next year builds on these, concentrating on extending mastery across the whole curriculum to enhance outcomes. Next year's learning sounds exciting already.



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Congratulations to our School Council members, who have met diligently to improve our learning environment at BFS. Their agendas focus on improvements under leadership, teaching and learning, pupil behaviour and welfare and pupil outcomes. They have improved access to reading by organising multiple story swaps this year, monitored litter and broken equipment, flagged up any e-safety concerns, hosted Millfield's School Council at the summer term story swap as well as visited Anderton Park as part of learning how other schools function and our wider society.

Developing the whole child by ensuring children have opportunities to be the best they can be and preparing the school to manage national and local challenges in the short and long term is at the heart of our strategy. Our vision at BFS has expanded this year to include our Forest School Nursery which we hope will ease the transition into Reception as part of our Early Years specialism, equipping our young people for future learning. It has been very exciting planning and seeing our Nursery project come together. Seeing the children enjoying the activities on our open mornings was very encouraging. We are very fortunate to have such Early Years Specialists at BFS experienced in the Early Years programme. We welcome Mrs Mander to our Early Years team. Funded by grants and non-education income streams, our nursery is self-sustaining, though we hope in the long term that any net revenue will allow us to weather funding cuts more smoothly. Our BCM partnership work is growing to include more schools working together under the Bromsgrove Learning Network. We hope First Schools in Bromsgrove will be stronger and fitter as a result of the cooperation and collaboration that partnership working brings.

The Governing Body has been gradually monitoring all aspects of the school day. Earlier in the year we monitored the excellent provision in the core curriculum morning, afternoon clubs and wrap around care. This term we were invited to the middle section of the day to observe lunchtime routines and foundation subject learning. Exemplary behaviour, excellent table manners, engaging conversations, and cooperative play, as well as an inspiring curriculum leading to mature group responses were observed and tasty cooking was sampled – you are a magician Mrs Barker. We have received Subject Leadership reports for Provision Mapping, Data, RE, and British Values. Analysis of progress against curriculum criteria have been scrutinised with BCM partners to ensure judgements are robust. British values are promoted successfully within school via a range of measures (school council, behaviour culture, Philosophy for Children, assemblies and PHSE). Individual Governors have visited to monitor Safeguarding and Finance to ensure we are compliant with statutory requirements and operating best practice.

Governors are impressed with the effectiveness and substance of the consistent cross school provision system in place at BFS for individual children. Leadership and teachers are very committed to planning specific tailored activities rather than relying on more general strategies in the hope that children respond. Our external view noted how well BFS teachers know their pupils and can differentiate between individuals according to their needs through lesson planning and interaction in the classroom. Quality of provision is also key, we are very blessed with skilled teachers and TAs who devise and deliver activities. Each activity is monitored and a series of activities is designed to balance a sufficient learning period with the need to move forward or change direction as the progress dictates. Support is therefore dynamic and pupil outcomes are improved effectively.

As we draw the academic year to a close we say good bye and best wishes to Year 4. Every year we claim that our year 4s are the best yet and this year is no different. It is perhaps their journey from caterpillar to butterfly that we have observed that makes our hearts go out to our year 4s. It has been our privilege to witness this flourishing and we wish them every success at Middle School.

We are delighted that our TA trainees, Miss Turner and Mrs Reid, have qualified and are continuing with us as members of staff. We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Freeman and Mr Hopkins in September. We also send our good wishes to Mrs Thompson and look forward to having her back with us later next year. On behalf of the Governing Body may I wish you all a very relaxing summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

With best wishes,

Mrs D Wilson (Chair of Governors)



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