

July 2018

Dear Everyone at BFS,

Congratulations to all pupils, staff, parents, carers and governors this year for all of their achievements, from the very small improvements to the bigger ones. Every step is work towards our vision of developing the whole child.

I have picked out a few highlights this year. Well, perhaps there are more than a few to celebrate.

- Meticulous planning goes into the inspirational curriculum to weave national criteria into interesting activities and topics developing knowledge and skills, taking into consideration staff knowledge of individual needs.
- World Festivals, Traditional Tales, Farms and Building a Business a business and many more school topics. I especially enjoyed shopping during 'Build a business'.
- Expanding knowledge and skills so that provision is even more effective in improving progress and increasing attainment. Deputy Heads from BCM have, over a few years, been investigating characteristics of effective learners as well as analysing mastery learning, to produce tools to help teachers plan activities. They then support and coach teachers in the use of these tools, measuring the impact on pupil outcomes so these can be refined.
- Feedback from annual questionnaires and external reviews provide positive reading, from Early Years Quality Mark to safeguarding or Governor reviews. This year has been another year to feel proud.
- External visits to a Russian music festival, dance events, drama workshops, sports competitions, Kenilworth Castle, Worcester Cathedral, Bell Boating, Malvern, farm visits. All these with high praise for the way pupils at BFS conduct themselves and their consideration for others. We are very proud of our children.
- Good attendance records – if children are in school they have access to learning, support and can move their learning forwards. Missing even a few moments can set this progress backwards. Thank you for ensuring your children are on time and present for the whole school year.
- Use of concrete mathematical apparatus to support problem solving and mathematical understanding.
- No Nonsense spelling programmes, spelling journals and attractive prompt cards tailored and accessed by individuals when engaged in a writing activity to support spelling development.
- High levels of intervention success and excellent levels of progress across the school.
- Increasing levels of outstanding teaching across the school.
- High levels of engagement and positive attitudes to learning demonstrated by pupils.
- Pupils taking pride in their learning and being able to explain and reason well.
- External recognition for quality of Early Years provision.
- External recognition for progress towards a Mastery Curriculum.
- External recognition for Safeguarding procedures and culture at BFS.
- Increased numbers of pupils being served healthy hot lunches.
- External recognition of Effective Governance.



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The Governing Body has:

- Met each term, both as a whole body and as committees, to hold the Head Teacher to account for Statutory requirements, Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Pupil Welfare and Pupil Outcomes as well as ensuring financial stability and that the premises are fit for purpose.
- Received training on how to respond to an Ofsted Inspection, new governor training, dealing with allegations of abuse and the mastery curriculum.
- Ensured participation in an annual self-review of effective governance and strategies for the future
- Visited the school to monitor and observe: Health and Safety; Safeguarding; Pupil Data; Social, Moral, Cultural and Spiritual aspects of provision; use of the Premises; financial budgeting; financial standards; purchase audits; provision for Special Educational Needs; stakeholder feedback; pupil attitudes to learning; attendance and behaviour; maths curriculum and subject leadership; mastery curriculum & the impact of CPD; leadership and partnership working with other schools and the quality of provision in afternoon and afterschool clubs.

We are honoured to be working with a team of very dedicated, visionary staff from leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, grounds, kitchen and office personnel, who often go above and beyond expectations, despite external challenges. Developing the children is the focus of all BFS activity. This focus creates a strong sense of community. The Governing Body would like to congratulate all staff for a very successful year. We have said goodbye to a few members of staff this year and we wish them every success in their new adventures and retirements; we thank them for their service.

We would also like to thank parents and families for their support, for taking the time to be interested and involved, reading the newsletters, attending concerts and festivals, facilitating learning at home, ensuring your children arrive at school on time and have high levels of attendance so they make the most of opportunities provided at BFS.

We are grateful that our supplementary businesses and strong PFTA support allow us scope to provide extra value-added sessions in the afternoon, along with resources, especially considering reduced funding from national sources in the foreseeable future. Our eagerly awaited Fairer Funding news was disappointing as the amount we will receive per pupil is reduced and unfortunately, despite requesting an explanation, we have not received one that sheds any light.

Thank you to all volunteers involved in PFTA. The whole school is now able to enjoy the variety and range of playground equipment that mirrors the problem solving and cooperation activities from our Early Years programme. We are extremely grateful to the energy and drive with which our retiring Chair has led the PFTA and supported the school over the last few years. We are blessed with a very committed and effective parent body so we extend our thanks to the new look committee who have taken up the mantle. Looking to the future, we are very excited about continuing the high level of education at BFS, expanding our kitchen, working in partnership with BCM and other local schools and in particular, sharing expertise to raise standards in school and locally by developing current and future teachers through the Bromsgrove Primary Teaching School initiative.

I would like to send my personal thanks to the Governing Body for all their support and commitment over the last year and indeed the many years they have donated to help the school flourish. Three of our long-standing community governors are retiring; we do hope that our paths will be reunited at some point in the future. I apologise to them - I did try bullet points! We are also hoping to welcome new governors to our team in the Autumn. Being a governor is a very rewarding experience and many local schools are in need of this help; if you know anyone who may be interested in becoming a community governor, rather than a parent governor, please can you ask them to contact the school office.

To conclude we are very proud of pupils, staff, parents and governors at BFS.

Best wishes for a lovely summer,

Debbie Wilson

On behalf of BFS Governing Body



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