

April 2019

Dear Families,

I am writing to give you a brief update on a number of current issues which arise from discussions at the Governing Body.

As you will know the responsibility of the Governing Body is to ensure that the children are given the best possible education in a safe and secure environment.

The Governors visit the school regularly to gain an understanding of the day to day activities and discuss a wide range of issues with the Head teacher at their regular meetings. Health and Safety issues are given particular attention.

Educational issues are clearly of high priority. At Blackwell we are most fortunate in having a highly competent staff who have been with us for many years and work well as a team to provide seamless progression from class to class.

The school has taken a number of steps in recent years to ensure that we are adopting best practice in the teaching. The alliance with other Bromsgrove schools has allowed exchange of ideas and expertise over a number of years and further contacts with other schools within the Bromsgrove area have supported and built on this.

The experience of cooperative working and enhanced skills which these contacts have generated have allowed us to form the Bromsgrove Primary Teaching School Alliance. This sharing of expertise was initiated to benefit both the schools which are supported and those providing the support.

It is worth noting that providing support to others is something that Ofsted now expects to see from a school which has an 'outstanding' classification.

We recognise that it is important to have independent views to compare with our internal assessment of our own strengths and weaknesses. We have had separate supportive reviews from our partner schools and from Babcock Prime on behalf of Worcestershire County Council this year.

I am pleased to report that, although funding is a major issue for all schools, income from the various charged for activities and generous support from the PTFA have allowed BFS to end the financial year in good shape.



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We have sufficient funds for the new Meeting Room (which I know has been mentioned in a newsletter from Mrs Moss) and for a range of decoration and maintenance projects which are currently under consideration. Planning permission for the Meeting Room has been obtained and a contractor appointed and it is hoped that the building work can be carried out during the summer term as there is a real need for the extra space.

Fortunately, the work should have only a limited impact on the normal running of the school.

The news letters from Mrs Moss and Class Teachers have provided us with detailed news of the activities of the school during the term and I have once again been impressed by the range of activities.

I would like to thank all the Staff at the school for their outstanding commitment year on year. We are fortunate indeed.

I trust that you will enjoy the Easter holidays.

Hugh Evans, Chair of Governors





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