



BLUEBELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lovelace Road Norwich Norfolk NR4 7DS

July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers of the Pupils at Bluebell Primary School

We the Governors of Bluebell Primary School, are writing to let you know what we have been doing as a team since we last wrote to you.

As Governors we become involved with a variety of issues including finance, pupil welfare, staff appointments, health and safety, maintenance of buildings and grounds. However we consider our most important role is to monitor the education and wellbeing of the children. Governors are appointed to ensure that objectives are met and that planning for the future is both visionary and realistic. We are here to support and challenge the Head teacher and all school personnel so that children have access to an enriched education and the opportunities they deserve.

Thank you to parents, staff and pupils for completing the recent accessibility survey. Data from surveys is invaluable for the school in helping gather information to make progress and make changes for the better.

We held our most recent Full Governors Meeting on Tuesday 10th July 2018 and were pleased to hear the significant increase in the Keystage 2 SATs results from last year. Congratulations to our year 6 families and we wish you all the best with your future education.

There is however some way to go to reach the national SATs expected levels something which the Governors will be continuing to monitor closely.

We are delighted to hear of all the extra opportunities which the school has worked hard to provide for your children, such as the whole school trip to the circus, what a great time was had by all and a wonderful end to the school year. A special well done to those students who reached the City Sports finals, this is an amazing achievement. A big well done to the students who contributed to decorating the Bluebell GOGO Hare called Sir Storytime of Bluebell fields. If you have the opportunity to see him over the holidays he can be found in House of Frazer, Norwich. He looks brilliant.

We want to mention all the hard work put in by the friends of Bluebell Primary School, who work tirelessly fund raising for the children, the summer fete again was a huge success and there was a wonderful atmosphere around the school. We thought this would be a great opportunity to say thank you for all that you do for the children and the school.

Attendance is the key to achieving good results. With the summer break coming up, this is a great time to start new routines and prepare for the new academic year, with positive attitudes. This includes arriving on time and ready to start learning. Children who turn up late or frequently miss

school often fall behind. It is so important that children have the best possible attendance at school as it helps us to enable that each and every student at Bluebell reach their best potential. Current studies also prove that encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behavior and have a better chance of achieving well at high school. Starting a new school year in September is always a new start for everyone we are really looking forward to what September brings.

The School Budget was set in April and, despite changes to the Special Needs funding, all staffing and resources will be comfortably met for 2018/19. If the allocation from the Local Authority stays the same over the next 2 years, the school envisages that the current levels of provision will be maintained.

Some of the spending projects have included the refurbishment of the library and the replacement of outdoor furniture. The library has been redesigned to provide a secluded browsing and reading area and a separate section for pupils to work independently. The entire book stock was reviewed and many new titles are now on the shelves. Some of the outdoor furniture has been arranged in the central courtyard where the children have been busily growing flowers and vegetables creating a lovely, quiet, purposeful place for everyone to enjoy.

During the last 2 years, the school has been part of the Primary Writing Project. Along with other Norwich schools, staff have been trained in an exciting approach to develop the children as writers. As part of their work Governors have: seen pupils retelling stories; read powerful pieces of pupils' compositions; viewed examples of blogging and visited classroom displays promoting the skills of writing topics. New resources have been purchased to support the project work – notably the writing, tool boxes which have benefitted Reception children.

In the coming academic year: new resources to promote reading have been bought and will be introduced in the Autumn Term; a review of the school's computers will be conducted with a view to update or replace any equipment.

It is the Governors aim to ensure that that the pupils at Bluebell have the best possible provision in school and if you have any further suggestions we would be pleased to hear from you. It is important that parents feel they are able to access the staff and Governors. The school is working hard to improve communications.

We also feel it important to update you with regards to Bluebell and its current possible academy status. Since our last letter the Department of Education has abolished the category of a 'coasting school' so there is no longer the requirement on schools like Bluebell who were under this category to convert to an academy. We will of course keep you informed of any further decisions or changes.

If you would like to know more about our role and what we do our vision can be found on the school website at www.bluebell.norfolk.sch.uk Please take this opportunity to have a look. You will find it is absolutely packed with useful links and parent information, including useful dates for your diaries. We also now have Twitter and Facebook sites, so why not follow us and see what is going on.

Lastly, we hope you all have a fantastic summer holiday and thank you for taking the time to read our letter. We look forward to seeing you in the school in September.

Yours sincerely

Bluebell Primary School Governing Body