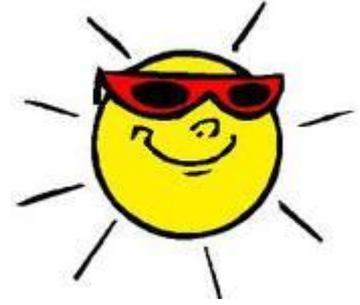




Stoborough CE VA First School Governing Body Newsletter Summer Term 2012



A Busy Year!

This is our last Newsletter for this year. We hope you all have a great summer break. Normally we would be saying goodbye to Year 4 but now we can look forward to welcoming back all the children, as well the new Reception class, to Stoborough Primary School in September.

It has been a year of changes, with Mr Marklew leaving, the recruitment of two new teachers and the appointment of Miss Corbin as our new Head Teacher. We will be welcoming Mr Logan to the staff team in September – he has already been working with the staff in preparation for his work with Year 5. Four new Governors have joined the Governing Body this year, and have each bought a variety of new experiences and skills, and added to what is a strong leadership group.

We are thankful for the great progress the building contractor has made so far and for the support of the Diocese Surveyors in overseeing this work. We are grateful for the tolerance of all the staff, parents and children, and to all those who have worked so hard, during this time of change. We would also like to thank the PTA for all their work in helping to raise funds for the School as well as organising memorable events, like the Jubilee celebrations and the Olympics.

An opportunity to join the Governing Body

As we are changing the School to become a 'Primary School' our Governing Body constitution has to be updated to meet current regulations. We therefore need an additional Parent Governor and two/three additional Foundation Governors. If you are interested in supporting the School in this way then please take a look at the information on the Dorset For You website or talk to one of the current Governors.

Any parent or carer of a registered pupil at the school at the time of election is eligible to stand as a Parent Governor. They are elected to the Governing Body by the parents or carers of pupils at the school. Parent Governors do not have to stand down if their child leaves the school but may do so if they wish. Karen Hall will be distributing the relevant details shortly.

Foundation Governors have an extra responsibility which is to uphold the Christian ethos of the school, and as such need to be approved by the Church – you may like to view their criteria on the Church of England website, or have a chat with Andy Bowerman.

The current Governing Body is as follows:

Clerk to the Governors:	Karen Hall
Foundation Governors:	Deb Barclay (Chair), Hayley Newman (Vice Chair), Andy Bowerman (Ex-Officio), Stephen Coles, Chris Gates, and Tricia Stephens
Parent Governor:	Caroline Mitchell
Local Authority Governor:	Sophie Lake
Head Teacher - Ex-Officio Governor:	Debbie Corbin
Teaching Staff Governor:	Jane Andrews
Non-Teaching Staff Governor:	Anna Daniels
Nursery Associate Governor	Jill Johnson

Please feel free to talk with any of the Governors or Miss Corbin directly, or via a correspondence file in the School Office.

Governing Body Meetings

Issues currently under discussion include:

Becoming a Primary School: The building works are going well so far and we appreciate your tolerance in living with the temporary changes as we all work to deliver an exciting new school environment that we can all be proud of. We're also working hard to ensure that the children who will become our new year 5 class will have a smooth transition. Staff have had opportunities to learn from other Primary Schools and we are developing appropriate policies to include the needs for a school with older children. These include deciding on the new curriculum topics such as Sex and Relationship Education – we'll be holding some specific parent sessions to talk these through in September.

Improvement Plan - this year's plan focussed on the transition to Primary, maintaining pupil progress in reading, writing, and numeracy, continuing to make improvements in numeracy, and working towards gaining certification for Artsmark.

The staff have worked very hard to continue to improve standards in the core curriculum areas: reading, writing and mathematics. Reading is taught very successfully across the school and children are attaining well in this area. It is such a pleasure to see so many of the children enjoying their reading. Staff have benefited from training from the Local Authority Maths Advisor this year. Maths and Writing will continue to be developed next year with further advisory support planned. All will remain areas to be developed in our curriculum as we strive to maintain an excellent calibre of education for all our children. The overall progress for children under the new Ofsted guidance is 'good'.

Mrs Andrews led an amazing arts week and all staff have been working with the children to help create wonderful artwork for displays around the School. The children have had drumming experiences, taken part in Purbeck Arts Week, and enjoyed Art Club, Choir and Drama Club, and the support of the Dorset Music Service which will all help to provide information to support our application for the Artsmark award. When the new classrooms are complete we will have walls instead of curtains and will have space to showcase all the Arts.

Staff changes – In managing the organisation of staffing across a School it is common practice for Head Teachers to periodically allocate teachers to different year groups. This helps teachers remain fresh and to be better able to support their peers in other year groups. We are privileged at Stoborough to have a dedicated and long standing staff team, and after review, the decision has been made to change the year groups for next year as notified in the Head Teacher's recent letter to parents. We recognise that any change can be challenging, but we will be fully supporting Miss Corbin and the staff with all that will be taking place.

Your Views

Parents Forum

We have a number of forums this year mostly discussing the change to a Primary School but also looking at the Behaviour Policy and travel arrangements.

Please let us know of issues you would like to raise at the Parent Forums – our next Parent Forum will include discussion of the Sex and Relationships Policy that we need to have in place as a Primary School.

