



Chacewater C.P. School



Truro and Penwith
Academy Trust

Letter from the Chair of Governors:

The Year 6 Leavers' Assembly in July was a fitting testament to the last seven years with Mr Gould as head. The progress made by the whole school is clearly evident as was that made by Y6. The confidence, talent and sheer enjoyment were great to watch. Their parents should be very proud of them. As governors we are privileged to be associated with the school and thank Mr Gould and his staff (teachers and support staff) for their efforts in helping all the children to achieve so much and for making the school a happy and welcoming environment for all who attend or visit. We do not underestimate the role of parents in this, so "Well done and thank you" to everyone. This success has seen numbers rise from 111 to 165 in those seven years - this term we welcome several new children and their families. This brings challenges in terms of accommodating larger numbers and financing additional staff at a time when budgets grow ever tighter. We will meet these challenges as we firmly believe that our ultimate aim of seven classes, with up to 30 children in each, is the most effective structure in terms of budgeting and curriculum. Smaller schools by necessity have to have mixed-age classes as we have. It is much more appropriate and better for the children to have one class for each age group. Mr Gould and the staff work tirelessly to improve the delivery of the curriculum and to offer the best opportunities to the children. As governors we monitor progress by regularly revisiting the School Development Plan, helped by an amazing amount of assessment and data fed to us by the staff. Included in the plan this year is a focus on reading and helping children to enjoy it. The Accelerated Reader initiative is part of this (see Julia Bruce's article). It will take time to embed but the staff have recognised that reading is about understanding rather than just ploughing through as many books as possible. Taking time to implement such schemes leads to more effective teaching and learning. As we begin a new school year I would like to thank the governors for their diligence and support. We welcome two new parent governors, Mrs Langford and Mrs Soutar. We look forward to their contributions at our meetings, to your continued support and to further success in the year ahead.

Terry Lister. Chair of Governors

ACCELERATED READER

By now I'm sure many of you will be familiar with our exciting new reading initiative - Accelerated Reader! After much research to find exactly what was right for our school, Mrs. Law and Mr. Gould decided that Accelerated Reader would really enhance the teaching of reading and help to drive standards even higher at Chacewater.

Mrs. Law initially piloted the scheme with her class last year and was delighted with the positive response shown by the pupils and the increased enthusiasm towards reading. Accelerated Reader has gradually been 'rolled out' to other classes.

The focus of the scheme is on comprehension rather than just word recognition, so that our children are learning straight away to think about the meaning of what they are reading. Each book has an online set of questions to answer, checking how thoroughly the book has been understood. As well as being extremely popular with the pupils, these 'quizzes' provide key information for the teachers about each pupil's performance and progress.

Organising and preparing all the resources for Accelerated Reader was a massive task and

we must pass on great thanks to Mrs. Law, Mrs. Hunt and their group of volunteers for getting everything ready. Many extra books have been purchased to ensure a wide selection in each band - as always more are still needed to offer an even better choice for our readers!

Another new approach to our teaching of reading will begin during the next few months, when the structure of Guided Reading changes to include some elements of whole class work rather than the customary small group work. Mrs Law is confident that this adapted method will provide an improved learning experience and help our pupils be even better readers!

A big thankyou to all our staff who, under Mrs Law's leadership, will take on these (and many more!) changes with enthusiasm and passion, working always to give Readers at Chacewater the very best provision possible.

Julia Bruce. Literacy Governor.

SCHOOL MEALS

The majority of Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 pupils have lunch each day. Wednesday (roast) and Friday (chips) being the most popular days.

The numbers having school lunch from Key Stage 2 are much smaller.

Special dietary needs are catered for by 'Autograph' (our provider) very successfully due to the close liaison with them and our excellent kitchen staff.

The menu runs on a three week rotation and is changed twice a year. The menu is available to view on our school website and hard copies can be collected from the school office.

Parents are able to pay and book online once every two weeks, however, at the time of writing, there are problems making this very difficult for parents to access the site, hopefully this is 'work in progress.' Once the system is up and running it will be the way forward thus freeing up time for the kitchen and the school office by reducing paperwork and time caused by the running of two systems. The whole set up of the dining room makes school mealtimes a very pleasant experience for the pupils and it is delightful to visit whilst lunch is in progress to listen to the conversations between the children at the tables.

Rachael Curnow. School Governor

E-SAFETY

Hello, my name is Nikki Burrows and I have been a very proud member of Chacewater's Governing Board for many years now. In recent years, I have become the Safeguarding Governor. This role covers many topics, from keeping the children safe in school, ensuring the children's safety when out on school trips, parking, supporting the health of children within the school environment and E safety. E safety is included in the curriculum every year and is taught to every child at some point within the academic year. In school we have an E safety committee. The people who sit on this committee are Mrs Fox, Mr Gould, children and parents of the school, the ICT provider and myself. We aim to meet termly and discuss any issues or concerns IT related. Every year, we undertake an audit with all the children of the school, to see how they use the Internet both at school and at home. The findings of the audit are usually shared at an E Safety Presentation, which we hold yearly to support parents with keeping children safe when using the internet. Please come, if you can, to the next presentation.

I look forward to the next academic year, helping to support the children of Chacewater School, if you have any concern regards safeguarding please contact me through the school office.

Prevent utilises a multiagency approach similar to other safeguarding issues such as child sexual exploitation. It is Local Authority led and partners include the Police, Health, Social care, Education and Probation. The Multi agency approach allows Prevent to achieve its purpose of safeguarding individuals who are at risk of radicalisation.

The Prevent strategy will specifically look at Ideology and challenge extreme forms of it and those who promote such ideas and ideals. It prevents people from being drawn into terrorism and to ensure the right advice and support is given. It also works with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which need to be addressed.

Prevent does not aim to criminalise people for holding extreme views instead it aims to stop the encouragement of violent activity.

Reporting concerns will not automatically cause a person to have a criminal record, they would have to have committed a crime for that.

To combat the threat we face from terrorism or violent extremism we must all play our part so our children have the safest and most fulfilling lives we can give them.

If you have any concerns over any individual or institution with extremist views speak with a safeguarding or prevent lead.

Be alert and not alarmed and enjoy what life can bring. Should anyone be interested in a more in depth prevent discussion/briefing I will be happy to assist.

Kind regards,

Murray NELSON
Police Prevent Officer.

