



An exciting year ahead

Here is the second newsletter to parents written by members of the Governing Body at Monks Eleigh Primary school.

Keeping you informed of what is happening in school and providing you with updates on how the school is performing is of paramount importance to us – we hope this newsletter achieves that.

Well set for the year ahead

Following an interesting and challenging 2010 for our school and education in the round, we find ourselves well positioned to take advantage of new opportunities:

- **We have a newly appointed Head; Rosie Smithson, who will continue raising standards across all areas and deliver outstanding education for our children. Her experience as curriculum advisor for Essex County Council will greatly benefit the school.**
- **We are confirmed as part of the School Organisational Review scheduled for September 2012.**
- **And, we have the funds for a fabulous new hall and it is anticipated building will start later this Spring.**

New effective working arrangements and partnerships

It will come as no surprise to you that much of the energy expended by the governing body of late has been focussed

on **funding** and how we can make our budget go that little bit further.

We, like all schools, have to find **innovative ways** to do more with less to ensure we continue to deliver the **highest possible level of education** for our children.

Placing children at the centre of decision making

You will have seen Rosie has made some **changes** to classroom structure to best serve our current needs along with making a shift of emphasis towards more **collaborative** and **topic** based work to develop our children further.

Throughout 2011 and into 2012 we will work hard to **build** on our Good Ofsted and **promote** the school to attract more children. It is anticipated that our pupil numbers will grow commensurate with the expansion of the school and our good news story.

Promoting the school

As you know, our **income** is based on the **number of pupils** at the start of the calendar year and therefore, it has never been more important for parents and friends to **promote the school** in every way they can.



It is also a crucial time for parents and friends to **get even more involved**, help with fundraising events and put forward your own innovative suggestions.

There are many initiatives already underway;

- **We are building on previous, successful work undertaken with Lavenham Primary School, to broaden the experience of pupils through increased collaborative work. This will be especially helpful for Y4 pupils, enabling them to build wider friendships with their Lavenham peers who may be transferring with them to Stoke by Nayland Middle School. It is anticipated that this collaboration will be enhanced through opportunities for children to work with each other on-line.**
- **We have adopted a more topic-based approach to learning and will continue to plan a whole school theme, with children developing the skills they need to promote their learning. This will enable children to integrate their skills across the curriculum – particularly literacy and numeracy.**
- **French will be taught through an after-school club in addition to assemblies and curriculum focus days when the whole school will engage with activities promoting cultures around the world and celebrating language learning.**
- **We are putting together a bid for a large grant from Sports England to purchase some new sports equipment, a school kit which in turn may be used in a mini Olympics with local schools. We also wish to run new after school clubs and allow the children to**

experience new sports such as fencing, karate, rock climbing and others. *If you have experience of a different sport that the children may enjoy and details of who and where this could take place; please let Merle know.*

- **The school's very successful eco-programme of learning is continuing to be developed, with lots of exciting activities to engage with the community, planned by the school's eco-team.**

In sum, 2011 is going to be a period of positive change and preparation as we set a course for growth. But, above all, we will be focussed on our core aim: **teaching and developing our children and working to raise standards in all areas.**

We will do our best to communicate to you accurately and regularly to keep you well informed of the school activities and how the school is performing.

Who's who?

As promised in the previous newsletter each issue will introduce a Governor with a bit more detail about them. Will Anderson, a Parent Governor volunteered for this edition. Will,



married to Tamsin is Barnaby's father and has another son Sebastian who is due to start at Monks Leigh school in September.

Feedback

As ever, should you want to take part or simply have questions, our door is always open to you – please get in touch.