



Welcome to the second Governor Newsletter!

And my goodness, what a lot there is to get into it!

Staffing Update

We have been very busy at school advertising, shortlisting, interviewing and appointing new members of staff. Three new Lunch Time Supervisors have been appointed, enabling existing members of staff to have their lunch times together. After a very rigorous selection and interview process, with very high calibre candidates, we have appointed two new members of teaching staff who will join



us in September. Katherine Weston will be our new Assistant Head Teacher, teaching Class 3 and Katie Goodwin will be joining the Blackfordby Team to teach Class 1. Finally, the Governors are thrilled to tell you that we have secured Mrs Savage as our Associate Head Teacher for a second year. I am sure you will agree that Mrs Savage has made a hugely positive impact on

our school and is ensuring that we go from strength to strength! Sue has somewhat fallen in love with Blackfordby School – who can blame her - and is very excited about remaining as part of the team who will ensure the children within it reach their fullest potential. It might seem like it is all change but it would be remiss of me not to mention the wonderful Alison Varty who has just reached a huge milestone, in that she has been providing the firmest of Foundations to our youngest children at Blackfordby for 20 years! What a fabulous start to their educational journey our children get with Mrs Varty – thank you!

SIAMS Inspection

All Church of England Schools have SIAMS Inspections, as well as OFSTED Inspections, which specifically evaluate the distinct Christian nature of the school and how this enables children to flourish. In March the SIAMS Inspector visited and thoroughly assessed the school. As with the OFSTED Inspection in November, the whole staff team pulled out all the stops to ensure that the Inspector was aware of the caring Christian ethos that runs through all we do. Each of the four areas of assessment received a rating of Good, which we are all delighted with. Thank you to the parents who completed the website survey and those who came in and spoke to the Inspector. The full report is attached but the Headlines are as follows:

“The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Blackfordby St Margaret’s as a Church of England school are good.

- ✓ *The inspirational leadership of the associate headteacher and her deputy articulates and promotes a vision for the school rooted in Christian values.*
- ✓ *High quality relationships demonstrate the school’s Christian values, of patience, hope, perseverance and constancy in action.*
- ✓ *The strong leadership of religious education [RE] and collective worship is improving provision for pupils.*
- ✓ *The high quality pastoral care provided by the school within a Christian framework enables pupils to make progress.”*

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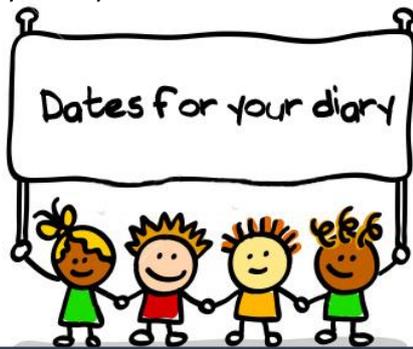
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Website Update

The website is being updated all the time, particularly the Latest News section, do please nip online and have a look. It has very recently had some superb photos added which were taken by Hermione Tipton (a Reception class mum) of GoodbyeShy.co.uk photography fame! We are very grateful to Hermione for taking the photos for us and donating them to be used by the school. Thank you! Any feedback on the website or anything else regarding school then please go to the Parent Voice section on the website where it details all the different ways to get in touch and have your say.



New School PTA

This week saw the first meeting of parents interested in re-starting the school PTA / Parents in Partnership group. Thank you to those who came along and came up with some fabulous ideas for activities (and to those who have expressed their interest but couldn't make the meeting). **THE NEXT MEETING will be on TUESDAY 25th APRIL at 7pm at the BLACK LION PUB.** This is open to all parents, whether you have completed a reply slip or not!

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

The Governors discussed the need for more opportunities for the children to learn outside the classroom. We voted to join a local group of schools who provide a huge amount of very varied extra-curricular opportunities – watch this space for more information on this!



Retirements

Reverend Tom Vale, or Father Tom as we all affectionately know him, is not just retiring as our village Vicar at Easter but also as a very valued member of our school family. I know the staff and children will miss his input into their school experience but we will also miss him as a Governor. Father Tom has been a trusted and valued voice within our Governing Body. We wish him well in his retirement to beautiful Wales. Robert Nettleton, who has been a Governor for 25 years, is also retiring to take life at a steadier pace and to enjoy some free time! Robert has been instrumental in guiding the school through some stormy waters in the past and we are all very grateful to him for his dedication and service to both the school and the village over these many years.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all the parents who returned the Governor's Parents Survey which was handed out at Parents' Evening. We were very pleased to see that the overwhelming majority of the responses were very positive. We will publish these on the website in due course. Thank you all for your support of the school and of your children during this time of change. Staff and Governors are very excited about this next chapter in the story of our wonderful little village school.

Have a wonderful Easter break, Nikki Scully-Crane (Chair of Governors)