

Bures CEVC Primary School – Update for the Parish Councils - May 2023

We shall have celebrated the Coronation of Charles III by the time you read this with our very own playground street party, weather permitting. The school menu that day had a Coronation style theme. Long live the King and Queen.

Before the Easter break we welcomed the “Two Johns” into school, to talk with parents and children about Internet Safety. The clear message for parents being that you can only support your children online if you are willing to go on the journey with them and you resist removing their access to the internet if something goes wrong. Children need to know that they can talk about their experiences and parents will find this the best way to help rather than 'punish' them.

As you may well have heard in the news Ruth Perry, Headteacher at Caversham Primary School in Reading, took her own life recently after Ofsted visited her school and gave it an inadequate judgement. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruth Perry's family and the school community who are struggling to deal with the loss of someone who meant so much to them. The Governors have written to both James Cartlidge and James Cleverly to urge them to think carefully about how important it is that they look carefully at the way Ofsted carries out its inspections and the strain this places on school leaders and school staff. We believe that schools definitely need to be held to account for the work they do if we are to provide the best education we can for our pupils but this process should be one of working together for improvement not one of 'naming and shaming'. Amanda Spielman (Ofsted Chief Inspector) has said that school's need the simple one word inspection judgement to help them make the right decision about which school to select for their child. We think most parents give choosing a school a lot more time and consideration than this and, though they may look at the one word Ofsted headline, visits to the school and discussion with other parents are probably more likely to play a crucial part in the decision making process. Education is all about learning and we hope that Ofsted, as the institution that should surely base all its work on what makes good learning, will be willing to learn from the debate that Ruth's death has prompted.

We are planning to holding a ‘Careers Week’ from 22nd - 26th May 2023. Our aim for the week is to provide our children with information about the wealth of opportunities that are out there now and may be in the future and encourage them think about the things they need to do to be able to grasp those opportunities. Our wider aim is to help raise their aspirations and recognise that the way they approach their learning in school now can make a big difference to the choices they will have when they are older. We already

have some ideas of our own and some planned activities ready for the week. What we are really keen to do is allow the children to hear from parents, carers, grandparents and ex-pupils who have worked in a range of places, countries, industries and institutions. and who will be happy to answer their questions and give them a flavour of what life might be like in a hospital, on a farm, on a building site or working from home; wherever or whatever we think it will be good for them to find out. We won't expect anyone to prepare a spectacular powerpoint presentation or speak to an audience of thousands, we'd just love people to come in and chat with a group of children about what they do, answer the children's questions and talk why they enjoy it (most of the time hopefully!) . The children are thrilled when anyone they know visits and they will be really pleased to see a member of their community sharing their skills with their class. We can be very flexible with timings during our Careers' Week so if you are able to join us for an hour or so at any time during the week we will very much welcome your help and squeeze you in. If it would be difficult for you to join us in school or you know of someone who would be great to talk to but lives in another part of the country (or World) we would be happy to work with them virtually on Teams or Zoom. You can let us know by emailing primary@bures.suffolk.sch.uk address, phoning the school office or just popping in.

The PSA Summer Fete will be on Friday 30th June after school. This is always incredibly good fun for the children whilst a super way to raise money for the school. We have been asked for donations of teddies and old wellies for this event. Please bring any donations to the school office. Thank you.

We do still have spaces available for our new Reception Class starting in September. So if you know of anyone who is looking for a Primary School place for their child or children, please contact the School Office.

Thank you for taking an interest in our School.

Kind regards,

Tim Fairbairn
Chair of Governors
6/5/23

