

## Bures Primary CEVC School and Nursery

### Update for the Parish Councils – March 2019

Before half-term the School hosted an Internet Safety awareness day for the children and staff. At the evening session over 70 parents and governors were in attendance and every school family has been sent a 'Digital Parenting' magazine to help provide information and guidance in this important area.

With half-term over, along with a mini February heatwave, the children and staff are very much looking forward to World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. All children have been invited to come to school in their pyjamas to enjoy lots of bedtime stories in lots of different ways.

The School has just announced that it plans to spend some of the money raised through the PSA to develop the playground. After much research the 'Scrapstore Playpod' scheme has been chosen, supported by Cambridge City Council from an original idea developed in Bristol. Our 'Playpods' (purpose-built sheds) will be filled with a huge range of scrap materials such as cardboard tubes, tyres, lengths of material, netting, ropes, crates and bins which will extend the choices and possibilities of play for all children on a regular basis. The unprescriptive nature of these loose parts in combination with children's inventiveness and creativity results in them using the items in endless different ways, enabling all ages, genders and abilities to find ways to play and socialise together. Schools who have taken part in this scheme have seen real improvements in playtime experiences which include:

- ☑ Happier children who can always find something to do and return to the classroom ready to learn
- ☑ Significantly fewer accidents
- ☑ Improvements in behaviour
- ☑ More confident and empowered staff

The introduction of the scheme requires a substantial investment from both the PSA and school income. This investment will ensure we have the right place to store the equipment and also will provide the training for staff and children and with continuing mentor support from the 'Scrapstore Team' to ensure that the learning opportunities can be maximised. Training for the introduction of the Playpod will take place over the next half term with the official opening ceremony scheduled for Wednesday 3rd April.

**Rocket Launch** - The School's Rocket Fund scheme has just been launched. This is a crowdfunding initiative which supports science and technology projects in schools. The School has until 25th March to reach its target of £ 971. The School are keen for anyone to help by donating if you can and sharing this crowdfunding project with as many people as possible. Support from local businesses and other members of our community is warmly welcomed. Please help to develop the next generation of computer coding experts by clicking on this link:

<https://rocket.fund/p/BuresCoders/?ref=105878>

Every month the children from Reception to Year 6 attend a short church service at St Mary's Church. This month Reverend Trish led the service. She talked about Lent as a time of preparation likening it to preparing to go on holiday. The children enjoyed watching her pack her suitcase and putting on her sunglasses!

The Governors will meet later this month to discuss and agree the annual School, Pupil Premium and PE budgets; in line with our vision for the school and the School Development and Improvement Plan. On Friday 8 March the Governors will be seeking to appoint a Deputy Headteacher from the candidates who have applied.

Most children in Year 6 will by now have a good idea which Secondary School they will be attending from next September and transition plans are already well advanced to make this process as smooth as possible.

For the coming September we currently have 14 children enrolled in the Nursery, with a capacity for 18.

Tim Fairbairn  
Chair of Governors