

Bures Primary CEVC School and Nursery

Update for the Parish Councils – May 2019

It is pleasing to be able to report that attendance for the whole School so far this academic year is 96.4 %.

In line with current national mental health and wellbeing awareness, from the Spring half-term Take Notice became the School's 'Five ways' focus. The well-being website suggests that we should "Live in the moment/ Take notice of the changing seasons / Embrace the here and now, whether you are eating, with friends or walking to work / Be aware of what you are feeling / Being aware of our experiences helps us appreciate what matters to us."

Research suggests that...

- ☑ savouring our experiences can help us recognise and restore our life priorities
 - ☑ being aware of what's going on in the moment can enhance our sense of wellbeing
 - ☑ self-awareness allows us to make choices based on our values and motivations
- With our busy lives it is not always easy to stop and enjoy the here and now, but it can make a real difference to our wellbeing, so staff, parents and children were encouraged to give this a try.

World Book Day was celebrated in style and a wonderful time was had by all. Despite spending the day 'ready for bed', the children were busy through-out, either reading and writing stories of their own or watching the performance of a classic tale. This event resonated with the School's development and improvement objective to boost and encourage reading across all year groups.

With significant support from the PSA the 'Scrapstore Playpod' scheme is now up and running. The two 'Playpods' (purpose-built sheds) are filled with a huge range of scrap materials such as cardboard tubes, tyres, lengths of material, netting, ropes, crates and bins which help extend the choices and possibilities of play for all children on a regular basis. Elsewhere the PSA have been busy, organising the Mother's Day floral gifts, the children's Easter Event and co-ordinating a Bag2School collection which raised £ 88 and the Waitrose green token scheme collecting another £ 300.

The School's Rocket Fund scheme has achieved its target; very many thanks to everyone who contributed. This means the School is now able to purchase the Bee Bots Blue Bots and Spheros needed to support in developing coding skills across the School.

Many parents took up an opportunity to share a school lunch with their children before Easter and many thanks are due to the Catering Team and the Midday Assistants who helped the event to run smoothly. Nutrition and diet being so important, this provided a great opportunity for parents to gain a better understanding of how fabulous the school dinners are.

The School recently consulted with parents on its Relationships and Sex Education policy. In developing the new policy, the School will also look closely at a range of resources available to help staff team deliver the RSE in the best way possible. It is planned to update parents at an afternoon and evening workshop on 25th June 2019.

Every month the children from Reception to Year 6 attend a short church service at St Mary's Church and, as reported in the May Parish Magazine, in April the children participated in a Holy Communion Service as part of their Easter Assembly Celebration, along with around 40 parents.

The School has been represented in sporting tournaments held at Ormiston and TGS in hockey and netball and congratulations are also due to the gymnastic teams for their splendid performances. It is also pleasing to note the range of school clubs currently on offer to the children; Hockey / Gymnastics / Yoga / Homework / Choir / Karate / Dance / Art / SCS Football. If you would like to help extend the range of this portfolio, please speak with the School Office initially.

The Governors met before Easter and approved the annual budgets; yes they really do run April to March! Whilst the overall budget for 19/20 shows a small intra-year deficit and a dip into reserves we are hopeful that increasing pupil numbers and additional Government funding will help offset this position as we move forward.

Representatives from Suffolk County Council are currently assessing the overall condition of the playground, especially in respect of potential drainage shortcomings. In the meantime staff, children and parents are reminded regularly of the need for care in respect of the uneven surfaces and signs to that effect are currently displayed.

At Easter we had 10 new children join the School and for the coming September the Reception intake is filling and there are 12 children enrolled in the Nursery, with a capacity for 18.

The children have been given the exciting opportunity to design the front cover of the 2019 Bures Carnival Programme. The theme is 'Music Through the Ages'. All entries will be displayed at the Bures Market on Sat 11th May. The carnival takes place on Saturday 15th June and an 80s Disco is planned for the evening in the Community Centre.

Tim Fairbairn
Chair of Governors

