



A MESSAGE FROM GOVERNORS – JULY 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

The end of this academic year is in sight! I'm sure the children and staff are feeling mixed emotions as they count down the final days. Many of the children and the staff will be looking forward to the holidays to have a well deserved rest but Year 6 pupils and some staff will be feeling sadness as the last day gets closer. I'm sure they are looking forward to their next stage of education or place of work but will remember the schools with many fond memories.

Thank you to the staff who are leaving the Federation, namely Mrs Slocombe, Miss Millman, Mrs Blaine, Mrs Evans, Mrs Boyle and Mrs Blaskiewicz, for all their hard work and commitment to the schools. It was wonderful news to hear that Mrs Blaine has won a teaching award and even better that all children will enjoy a day's trip to The Big Sheep as a result of her prize. Fantastic!

We very much enjoyed the end of year plays performed by the children. They showed so much confidence in remembering their lines and in singing so well. Thank you to all the staff for their hard work in planning and rehearsing at the end of a very busy term. Many thanks to FOBBs and FOPPs for their continuing support, providing refreshments and organising the raffles. The schools really benefit from their hard earned funds, but they desperately need your help as both committees function with so few people. Please consider if you can join either committee in September.

There have been very many successes this year thanks to the dedication and leadership of Gina and the staff in continuing to raise standards. This has been recognised by an external review at Buckland and the recent Ofsted inspection at Parkham. The inspection report will be published early next term. Thank you for completing your positive responses on Parent View.

The Parent Questionnaire that I circulated at the beginning of the summer term highlighted a number of strengths at both schools. This was especially in response to the statements 'My child is happy in school'; 'My child is well looked after'; 'My child is well taught'; 'I receive valuable information about my child's progress'; and 'My child makes good progress'. There were 20 responses from parents at Buckland and 7 from Parkham. Thank you to Tricia who did a sterling job in handing out questionnaires at Buckland. Staff and governors have been working hard to address the areas which resulted in lower scores eg 'The school ensures the pupils are well behaved' and 'deals effectively with bullying' (at BB). However, governors are now confident that effective procedures are in place to support continued improvements in these areas.





Our discussions with pupils highlighted many strengths including their enjoyment of learning, an excellent understanding of e-safety, the dangers of cyberbullying, positive responses to democracy and a clear understanding of racism. The pupils showed mature attitudes and offered sensitive, reflective responses. They are great ambassadors for the schools!

The governors have worked extremely hard this year. Six governors recently joined the leadership team to review the schools' improvements to help identify the main priorities in the school development. A group of governors were also involved in a lengthy discussion

with the Ofsted inspector last week which provided useful additional information to support the school.

Governors have consulted the children, staff and parents via the 'Parents' Forums' to review the vision statement for the Federation. Our final draft is as follows:

"Flying high from the very Start.

We provide high quality teaching and learning to ensure that every child reaches their full potential for academic, creative, sporting and personal achievements.

Our ambition is to inspire your child with a thirst for learning based on our agreed core values (respect, kindness, honesty, courage and forgiveness) by encouraging a confidence to face individual learning challenges. Pupils will be prepared both socially and emotionally within a safe, happy and inclusive environment in readiness for the next stage of their education.

We strive for excellence and expect our pupils to be the very best they can and fly high from the very start"

Please contact me via school if you have any final comments on this vision statement before it's adopted early September. We have greatly appreciated your support and hope to see you at the next Parents' Forums which we intend to schedule for the year ahead.

Finally, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to governors who are retiring from their voluntary posts; namely Betty Banks and Alison Lobb who have both provided many years of service to the governing board but are now moving on to do other things! We shall miss them.

Have a great summer!
With very best wishes,

Linda Rafferty
Chair of Governors





Parkham Primary School • Parkham, Bideford, Devon EX39 5PL
T: 01237 451334 • E: admin@parkham.devon.sch.uk

Buckland Brewer Primary School • Buckland Brewer, Bideford, Devon EX39 5LX
T: 01237 451315 • E: admin@buckland-brewer-primary.devon.sch.uk



Executive Headteacher: Mrs Gina Finch