



'A lifelong love of learning;
a love of life.'

Dear Parent/carer,

Ofsted

After a glorious bank holiday of friends and family, sunshine and barbeques, we returned to school to receive a phone call on Tuesday lunchtime to tell us that Ofsted would be visiting the following day!

As we are a school with 'no fixed designation' (which means we have changed to a primary school) we would be subject to a two day inspection, whereas most schools are given a light touch, one day inspection, unless there are serious concerns.

Our last Ofsted inspection was over 8 years ago and, since then; the inspection framework has changed four times with the most recent in April 2018. These changes include much higher expectations for every category of the inspection. Due to this, and the fact that new primary schools in Worthing have been very challenged by Ofsted, we were very nervous to say the least! Also, the fact of the matter is, we haven't *even* been a full primary for one year yet. The inspection was extremely rigorous and exhausting, but we are happy with the outcome as the inspection was successful.

We look forward to reading the report and sharing it with you; this, and the Ofsted grading, remains confidential at this stage. We should be able to do that within 20 days of the inspection. Thank you for all the support from you, the parents and carers, we felt that you were really behind the school and want what's best for your children, as always. They were the stars of the inspection, talking with confidence and showing their best learning. They did you and us proud!



Budget News!



As you are aware through the Worthless and Save Our Schools campaigns as well as national media, we have been and still are struggling to meet costs. Whilst we have always carefully budgeted, there have been significant impacts.

Our main impact was directly after the age of transfer when we lost 45 children to other schools, mostly to Downsbrook, each child is worth about £3,800 to the school budget.

The following year, we cut costs to maintain the rich curriculum, e.g. music tuition, and the same level of support for the children, namely TAs in the classrooms. This meant that I covered some teacher planning time and covered for courses and we also had much less administration and premises support than was required for the growing numbers of children – we were stretched.

This year has been much more challenging; we have had to cut costs to the bare bones – again without reducing class staffing levels or curriculum offer. Also, we have been very fortunate with natural wastage of some staff, thus avoiding redundancies, and we have been lucky with the recruitment of NQTs and new support staff who have contributed so much to the school. This has meant again that we avoided a deficit budget and impact on the children.

Next year, unfortunately, is a much worse picture and I am going to be perfectly honest with you. Whilst we will do our very best, we may begin to see our capacity weaken. Mrs Beattie our SENCo/Inclusion Leader is retiring at the end of this year and in order to maintain our other staffing levels, we are not replacing her. With the support of Mrs Su Allwright (Lead SEND TA) and Mrs Lorraine Poole (Lead Pastoral TA), I am taking over this role. Additionally, to provide support for children with SEND, we are re-deploying TAs and so many classes with not have a general TA this coming year. As you can appreciate this has been a very difficult decision, one that governors have grappled with and we will need to review this decision as we go forward.

Curriculum

Reception

Green Fingers - Children have been learning about how things grow and have planted their own cress seeds. They have been enjoying reading Supertato and writing stories about their own superheroes: they even went outside and rescued Edward from the tree.



Year 1



I Do Like to be Beside the Seaside – To begin the topic, Robin class had a visit from Andy from the RNLI who told them all about his work. They have been creating posters to think about the dangers of plastic in our seas. The children have been enjoying making their own lighthouses from clay and are looking forward to their trip to Littlehampton Beach next month. Let's hope the sun keeps shining!

Year 2

Victorians – The children have been reading Alice in Wonderland and thinking about writing their own adventures with Alice. They have also been working really hard on their special end of key stage 1 quizzes. They too are looking forward to their trip to Preston Manor after half term.

Year 3

Egyptians – To begin their new topic Year 3 built pyramids, for their Egyptian display: they look wonderful. They have been writing to persuade people to move to Egypt and finding out about the fascinating work of Howard Carter.

Year 4

Mystical Mayans - The children found out about this ancient civilisation and they have written some really exciting stories set in this time. They have now moved on to their new topic – Burps, Bottoms and Bile (lovely) and they have just started to learn about keeping teeth healthy and are busy making models of their teeth.

Year 5

Ancient Greeks – The children have been finding out about what life was like in Athens and Sparta and are busy preparing reports for a heated debate on the matter. They have also been enjoying some fun experiments testing forces and they have been really thinking like scientists.



Year 6

This term the children have really focussed on preparing for SATS. All this hard work really paid off this week, and we were really proud how the children performed. Well done! Over the next half term the children will be continuing with their learning, preparing for the end of year production and their transition to high school.

Residential visit to Bowles



The Year 6 visit was really successful and we were so lucky with the weather. The children and adults alike had a fantastic time dry skiing, canoeing and swimming. The children's behaviour was exemplary and they all demonstrated great resilience and perseverance during the activities. I am sure it will be a week that they will remember.

Questionnaires to parents

You will notice in your child's book bag that there is a parent questionnaire. This is your chance to have your say. Please can you fill in and return, via the parent post box. Thank you.

Parent View

If you would like to put forward your views regarding the school, please log on to:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> where there are 12 questions as to how you feel about the school.

Field news

As you will be aware the field is progressing. They are laying the top soil with the turf to follow shortly. Unfortunately the field will not be ready to use for Sports Day.

Artsmark Award – silver

We have been awarded the Artsmark Silver Award! Recognising and celebrating our commitment to arts and cultural education. Artsmark have said the following about our arts provision:

Your children and young people are offered equal opportunity to participate in a diverse range of arts and cultural experiences and you recognise the importance of development opportunities for your staff in these areas. You understand the value of working with arts and cultural organisations and are developing partnerships

to enhance your provision. Your children and young people have an opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of arts and culture and you are working to build on the foundations of your provision.

This award is recognised for 2 years and we will be working on improving our provision further. Well done to all our staff, our children and the community for helping us on this journey.

Sports update



So far this term we have entered a range of sports tournaments. Our Year 5 and 6 children entered a Quad kids tournament and performed exceedingly well at the event. Similarly, our Year 1 and 2 children competed at a Quad kids tournament and achieved some fantastic results. We had a full squad of girls, but unfortunately, we were unable to recruit a full team of boys and as such despite some excellent scores (including many first place finishes) the team were unable to be placed amongst the winners.

We have upcoming football, Quad kids and tri-golf tournaments and I know the children will continue to do their very best and achieve excellent results! We are all so proud of our children at Bramber! We have also been conducting intra-school competitions where children from different houses have been competing against each other in a range of sports. Special thanks to George (our PE assistant) and our Legacy Leaders for their hard work to make these possible. So far we have had competitions in Year 6, Year 4, Year 3 and Year 2 with upcoming competitions planned for other years. Results can be seen on the website. I would like to extend my deepest thanks for all of the support and effort being given to our PE and Sport endeavours by parents/carers. Your support not only makes our participation in these events possible, but it also motivates the children and allows them to showcase their extraordinary talents! Going forward, I would love to see more children competing in extra-curricular tournaments and would be grateful if you could talk to your children about entering tournaments/competitions as they become available. As ever, if you have any questions regarding sport/PE then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sports Day volunteers for marshalling

This will be the final year we hold sports day on the green, Wednesday 27th June. If you are able to come and help to marshal the roads we would be so grateful. Please pop into the office.

Reception intake

We have a full Reception class next year. There was a successful intake meeting last night, where we met some new and not so new faces.

Reminders

Staying safe

As our older children are now walking home by themselves, please can you remind them to be vigilant about stranger danger and road safety.

Sunny Weather

As the sunny weather continues please can we remind you that your child should have sun cream applied, to wear hats and have a water bottle in school?

Recently, there was a report of a dog being left in a car, during the hot spell. Even though you are only popping in for a few moments please be mindful of pets left in cars.



Yours sincerely,

Tracy Taylor