



## BURWELL VILLAGE COLLEGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Meeting with Interim Executive Board (IEB) Members – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

I do hope that you had a happy and restful Christmas break with your children. On behalf of all the IEB members, I would like to wish you a very happy new year.

Our last parents' meeting was on 14<sup>th</sup> December. We were pleased to hear some positive points and we took careful note of several concerns, some of which are ongoing. We have already discussed these issues with the school's leadership.

After introducing our new IEB member, Edris Tildesley, I gave a brief summary of the IEB's work throughout the Autumn Term. First, I dealt with specific responses to parents' concerns. We have addressed several complaints and challenged the school where you raised particular issues. As a direct result:

- The school has reviewed Consequence Club and changed it back to Time to Think with a new logging system;
- Danielle Hunt (Year 6 teacher) is reviewing the Dojo system with a planned relaunch early in the Spring Term;
- Consistent reward icons are in use across each phase in the school to reinforce learning behaviours;
- The school has purchased new reward badges and introduced these to pupils and parents;
- The Head and Deputy are more accessible at the beginning and end of the school day;
- There have been changes to email arrangements;
- There have been substantial updates to the school website.

The school's leadership and the IEB will regularly check to make sure that these changes – particularly around rewards and consequences - are being applied consistently.

Secondly, we have provided general support and challenge to the school. Through our regular meetings with the school's leadership, we have challenged the school to overhaul its improvement planning. We have been able to bring in additional Local Authority support to work with the school's leaders. As a result, improvement planning is now far more focused and slimmed down, making it both manageable and achievable.

Finally, we have taken on a range of additional support roles reflecting emerging priorities in the school. Diane Stygal (IEB Member), for example, is providing mentoring and support to the school's SENCO as well as focusing on vulnerable children, safeguarding and health and safety issues. Emma Fuller (IEB Member)



*Burwell Village College Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*

has worked on curriculum changes and provided support to staff in assessing writing; and I have provided direct support and challenge to Year 6, which has included observing lessons and working with both staff and children.

Taken as a whole, I said that we are cautiously optimistic about the changes and improvements we are seeing.

Through your comments and questions, we noted that communication remains an issue. You praised the information provided by EYFS, but several of you said that in other years, you were less clear about what your children are learning. We explained that curriculum outlines are now on the website, but these need to be more accessible to parents, for example through links in the newsletter. The IEB knows that the school is working hard to improve communication but this is not a finished piece of work yet, so your feedback is really important.

Concerns were noted about a supply teacher and how there occasionally seem to be gaps in staff knowledge of children's needs. We immediately passed these concerns to the Deputy Headteacher who quickly dealt with the issues raised.

You gave us feedback about a perceived over-reliance on data and how assessments are used to feed into reports. Parents would like to hear a narrative alongside the test scores. The IEB picked this up with senior staff after the meeting and noted that the class that you referred to had a new teacher for the second part of the summer term, which might have led to an over-reliance on data. However, this will be explored further as it needs checking.

More positively, we noted many appreciative comments about the Year 6 residential and the updates shared with parents whilst they were away; and we noted positive feedback from parents about some aspects of teaching that you had been quite critical of in our previous meeting. However, parents also expressed concern about staff morale. I would want you to know that we offer regular meetings with staff, just as we do parents – and we also welcome (and receive) individuals' comments and suggestions.

We will be in contact again shortly with details of the next parents' meeting, which will be in February. Several parents asked if we could offer an evening meeting and we are hoping that this will be possible. Meanwhile, and as I explained, we are all in school regularly, so if you would like to speak to one of us in the meantime then please contact us via our IEB Clerk, Amy Lorimer: [Amy.Lorimer@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Amy.Lorimer@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Chris Marshall**  
**Chair of Interim Executive Board**  
**Burwell Village College Primary**