

# The New Beacon View

– an update from Mr Hartley



On 4<sup>th</sup> December I held a meeting with parents. These were the key messages.

## **Executive Head Teacher Role**

My role at both Beacon View and the Victory is to:

- Establish and build on the school's priorities and ethos
- Create a plan to move the school forward
- Commission support that will lead to school improvement
- Line manage school leaders
- Look for savings and efficiencies

It is Mrs Mitchell's role, as Head of School, to run the school on a day to day basis. I try to go into class every day and the children know me well. However, I need to spend my time on the key parts of my job for the two schools which is why you will not often see me out and about before and after school.

## **School Improvement**

The end of Key Stage results for Beacon View for the past two years have been poor. This means that when they left the school after Year 6, not enough children had the knowledge or skills needed for success at secondary school and beyond. This is not good enough. United Learning have been very clear that it is the job of the new leadership team at the school to prioritise improving the quality of teaching which will lead to faster progress.

The school has moved quickly on this by commissioning support from expert teachers and subject advisors. Our teachers are working alongside them to plan and deliver more challenging learning. The teachers and TAs are working very hard and already we have seen an impact in terms of the work in the children's books and the learning the children have retained.

## **New Build**

The school is working through the organisational issues related to the new build. The following issues are causing us considerable problems:

- The distance to the playground from the school building – a temporary toilet block should soon be in place.
- The width of the paths and the flooding of them – the contractors have been tasked to sort this out.
- The lack of an entry phone system – we should have one fitted over Christmas.
- The difficulty for parents/carers to speak to teachers before/after school – this is proving to be a difficulty now we are on two floors. The teachers are missing being able to see parents every morning as well and so from next week, the teachers will start a new rota system so that every few days they will be on the gate in the morning so they get to see you more. If you would like an additional appointment to speak with your child's teacher at any time, please leave a message with a member of staff or the school office.

Please be patient while we try to work through these things.

## **Behaviour**

At the meeting, I reported to the parents that the vast majority of children in the school are compliant and engaged in their learning. Behaviour in lessons is generally good. However, some children need to work harder and not give up when the learning gets hard. From next term, the school will have a new behaviour policy in which there will be a greater clarity on the school's expectations, rewards and sanctions. More details about this will follow.

Our biggest challenge is to prepare children for the very high expectations of secondary schools. We ask for the support of parents while we put systems in place to improve behaviour for learning. This includes ensuring children are ready for school in their school uniform and not wearing hoodies or other inappropriate items of clothing. From January, we will be focussing on this and the children will be provided with one of our spare school jumpers if they turn up to school in anything else.

### **Pupil Survey**

The school has conducted an online confidential survey of pupils. The results were positive and showed that the vast majority of children enjoyed being at school, felt safe and appreciated what teachers did to help them to learn. We will put the results on the website in due course.

### **Communication**

These are the ways that we communicate with you:

- A regular hardcopy newsletter (we try to do these monthly). Last week we emailed out all of the ones that have been sent out so far this academic year, so please make sure we have your up to date email address so you always receive an electronic copy.
- Our website- this is where you can find information about our policies, staffing and things like the curriculum. Our curriculum has undergone a review this year and so we will be updating the website and inviting you in to hear about this in the New Year.
- Facebook-we currently do not have a working Facebook account but this is something we are trying to sort out.
- Twitter-our Twitter account is used mainly to keep parents up to date about the sporting achievements in school.
- Instagram-our new Instagram account opened in the summer holidays and so far we have posted 17 updates, we try to do at least one a week to give you more information about the fun things going on in school.

### **Complaints**

All schools should have a complaints policy. Ours, which is in line with United Learning complaints policy, can be seen on our website at [www.beaconviewprimary.co.uk](http://www.beaconviewprimary.co.uk).

If you have a concern with the school, you can use this guidance to make sure your complaint is heard and dealt with quickly and appropriately. Step one of the complaints policy is copied below:

#### STAGE ONE: INFORMAL RESOLUTION

The sooner concerns are raised, the easier it is for an appropriate resolution to be found. In the first instance, you are encouraged to raise your concern or complaint with the following members of staff:

- Concerns of a pastoral (friendships etc) should normally be made to your child's Teacher
- Concerns of an academic nature should be made through the Head of School, Mrs Mitchell
- If the nature of your concern is broader and may cover both academic and pastoral issues then concerns should be directed to either the Head of school or Mr Bowen, the SENCo. That person will normally acknowledge the complaint within 3 school days of receipt. They will try to identify areas of agreement and clarify any misunderstandings that might have occurred. They will make a written record of your concern or complaint, the date on which it was received, and then try to resolve the matter themselves or refer you to the appropriate person. Should the matter not be resolved within 15 school days or fail to reach a satisfactory resolution, then you may proceed with your complaint in accordance with Stage 2 of this procedure. If so, you will be expected to do so within a reasonable timeframe, ordinarily within 15 school days of receiving the outcome of Stage 1. If the complaint concerns the Head, contact the Chair of the Local Governing Body (LGB) under Stage Two of this process.

We hope that this newsletter, gives you some of the key information you require to understand the important work on school improvement taking part at the moment. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to come and speak to us.

We look forward to working with you to make the new Beacon View the best it can be!