

# Sparsholt C. E. Primary School

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22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

The Governing Body, Mrs Gwilliam and I would like to take this opportunity to give you an update of developments at Sparsholt Church of England Primary School.

As you are aware since the departure of the previous head teacher at the end of last term I have been interim Head teacher at Sparsholt, dividing the headship responsibilities with my own school, Cliddesden Primary.

The Governing Body and I recognise that the school is very much in an interim period and for parents this can create a degree of uncertainty. We want to assure you that every measure is being taken to ensure high standards in the school are maintained.

On arrival at Sparsholt in January I could see that the school was in a good place but also that strategic improvements needed to be made.

Alongside Mrs Gwilliam, who has been able to raise her leadership profile in school, I drew up an action plan of short term improvements and would like to inform you of the progress we have achieved so far.

## **Priority 1 – Mathematics**

There were inconsistencies in the teaching of mathematics across the school. We are now working on a mastery approach to the teaching of mathematics where within each lesson children work on a mathematical area securing their learning before moving on to a series of challenges with differentiation being determined by outcomes.

## **Priority 2 – Wider Curriculum**

We have revisited our curriculum mapping and planning for the foundation subjects. This includes ensuring not only the coverage of these subjects but the progression between year groups. The teaching and learning within our topic based curriculum focuses on both the skills the children will acquire and the knowledge they will retain. We have introduced new Sparsholt personalised Topic Books for the children to present their work in and promote a sense of pride.

We have introduced a new handwriting scheme – ‘Letterjoin’. The scheme used from the Early Years through to Year 6 develops children’s cursive handwriting which is a requirement in the National Curriculum. The children have special handwriting books to practise in.

## **Priority 3 – Behaviour**

While the behaviour of our children in school is good and they show kindness and respect towards each other we do have some pupils in our school who due to specific social and emotional needs can display negative behaviour. We have improved this situation by:



- \* Consultations with Hampshire Behaviour Services to devise intervention plans for children with social and emotional difficulties
- \* Up-skilling all staff on positive handling approaches to ensure consistent approaches and share good practice.
- \* Training staff on 'Reframe the Behaviour' model
- \* Training staff on 'Positive Language Scripts' and strategies
- \* Creating behaviour support plans with class teacher and LSAs
- \* Creating Child Friendly Support Plans and 'talk-time' opportunities for all children
- \* Continually monitor effectiveness and review interventions and approaches on a weekly /daily basis

#### **Priority 4 – Early Years Foundation Stage**

The Willow Class staff have been working with the EYFS staff at Cliddesden to share good practice and to help with the upcoming county moderation process. We are also improving the learning environment and EYFS provision through additional resources.

#### **Priority 5 – Community and Parental Engagement**

This will be a focus for the summer term. We want to encourage more parents to come into school by providing the opportunity to join us for parent workshops where for a special lesson you can work alongside your child. This is something we do at Cliddesden and has proved popular. An example can be seen using this link <http://www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk/events-1/november-2018/beechn-class-lantern-making-workshop-1>

We will also be revising our homework policy and procedures before the end of term. We want to ensure homework supports basic skills and is manageable. We are establishing MyMaths log-ins for all our pupils where they will be able to access their homework on-line at home. Weekly homework sheets will also be available to view on the website so parents are aware of what is required.

We will keep you up to date with these developments.

#### ***Head teacher Recruitment Update from The Governing Body***

*We are now part way through the recruitment process. This involves the advertising, shortlisting, assessing and finally appointment of new Head teacher. Our continued aim is to have someone confirmed to start with us in September 2019. We will be carrying out assessment days at the beginning of next month and will be able to provide a full update to parents following this.*

*Hampshire County Council have been working with us closely and have confirmed that our process is being well managed and robust. Although they have informed us that this is a challenging time for any school to be looking for a Head teacher we are all confident we will find the right Head teacher for us. Amongst other things, this will be a strong leader who will ensure an excellent standard of education as well as enhance the school's already caring, compassionate and creative culture.*

We hope that this letter has proved informative and is clear on the current position of the strategic and operational development as we value the support that the parents give to the school.

Mr Kenneth Davies

Mrs Kathy Bamber

Interim Headteacher

Chair of Governors