

KEY
POINTS:

- Gordon Burton is our new chair of governors, supported by Phil White as vice chair.
- A big thank you to all of our volunteers.
- Our new curriculum is well underway
- Curriculum information evening 8th Feb
- Communications are in the process of being streamlined.
- The new trim trail is now open!

Bleasby's Bulletin



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Bleasby Governors #Belonging

Dear Parents and Carers,

After chairing our Governing Body with wisdom and thoughtfulness since 2019 Phil has stepped back from his role as Chair. I am delighted to take up the position after being vice chair for the last 4 years.

As we head into the new term, I want to thank our whole school community, the teachers who enlighten our children with such thought and energy; our teaching assistants/sports coach for giving the critical support to the unique needs of our pupils in the classroom and on the playing field; to our administration, grounds and cooking staff for keeping the show on the road; to our playground supervisors for guiding the safe play in our fantastic outdoor spaces; and to our wonderful head teacher for providing solid leadership and support. In addition to those employed to deliver our school experience we would not be what we are without the army of volunteers who serve as members of the Governing body, lead enriching activities, support reading, provide community events, fundraising and so many aspects it is difficult to list them all. We are so lucky to have such a supportive

community of parents and carers who support us in engaging the children with everything that is on offer.

This year has seen significant positive steps in the development of a new curriculum and improved approach to phonics. Do look out for invitations to come in to school to understand how to best support your children as the new curriculum continues to be rolled out. We look forward to the new Trim Trail being erected after such hard work by the BSFA and further improvements to our grounds through the support of Mitre Trust who we continue to have a beneficial relationship with.

In the new year the Governors will be focussing on how we make our finances go further and leverage other sources of funding, including a new simple giving scheme designed to directly support educational provision further; supporting Mrs Cast in consolidating our teaching and learning provision and continuing to promote our school across the community.

I hope you had a fantastic holiday, best wishes, Gordon, Chair of Governing Body, Bleasby C of E Primary School.

More Thankyous!

Over the last term I have found myself reflecting again and again about how much richer the school is for the support of volunteers across the community, and particularly parents and grandparents.

The school is able to offer a great education and develop the values really effectively - we are lucky to have very talented and committed staff who are constantly striving to develop the school.

But what the children gain because of the additional and voluntary extras is just incredible - things like the choir performances, the movie night, the sponsored read, the garden and grow, the church services, Science Week - they wouldn't happen without people giving of their time and skills.

A sincere thank you to all of you - our school community is a very special one which you can all be very proud of your contribution to!

The Bleasby Curriculum #Achieving



The Autumn was our first opportunity to introduce our new approach to the curriculum to the children.

This began with a whole school question “**When would you prefer to have lived?**”

Each team focused on a different era in British History - Orchard looked at the Victorians, Woodland studied the Tudors and Forest investigated the impact of the Second World War.



The children’s learning was greatly enhanced by their visits and experience days, so thank you to all of you for supporting the cost and costumes. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to the members of the community who worked so hard to provide the Evacuation Day - such a memorable experience for Forest Team.



The enquiry culminated in the children all presenting what they had learned to the rest of the school and a whole school vote on, if they had to choose one of the three periods, when would they choose... The winner was The Victorian era, despite the tales of child chimney sweeps and terrifying school teachers!

Feedback from the children has been very positive, in terms of their enjoyment, how much they have learned and in the quality of work in their books. The younger children also have a little taster of the learning to come as they move through the school as these enquiries will return on a two-yearly cycle.



This term we move to a new enquiry question “**Why is it important to be globally connected?**” which will see the children learning about different countries and how they are connected to them. Forest team are researching Brazil, Woodland are finding out about Spain and Orchard team will learn about India. If you have any connections with these countries, the teams would love to talk to you about them!

On the evening of **Wednesday 1st February at 5pm**, we would like to invite you for an **information event** explaining why we changed our approach to the curriculum, share with you the frameworks themselves and let you see a sample of what the children got up to across the school last term.

Welcoming New Faces and Familiar Faces

We are so happy to be welcoming back Mrs Corden and Mrs Shepherd this term - we've really missed them. Thank you to Mrs Flatt, Mrs Maloney, Mrs Cooke and Mrs West for the extra time you gave us last term.

Miss Dodson, who began her teacher training with us in the Autumn, is now on her second placement. This half term, Mrs Thompson has joined in her place. We are really pleased to be able to support new teachers in their journey and to reap the benefits of their skills.

Bleasby Trees

As you will know, from our class names, trees are very important to us at Bleasby, so we were very disappointed to be told, that two of our trees were dangerous and needed to be felled. I'm sure you will have missed one of the silver birches as you arrived at school. We also had to lose an ash from near the forest school. Replacements are planned, with at least one of them marking the coronation next term. Other trees have had work done that should improve their health as well as keeping the children safe,



A message from our vicar and vice chair



Dear Parents & Carers,
as Gordon Burton has said elsewhere I have stepped down as Chair of Governors, in advance of my retirement from ministry in May. I remain deputy chair until then, in order to support Gordon as he takes over as Chair. Since November 2019 (when I became a somewhat reluctant new Chair!), we have all seen many changes and challenges. Our amazing school and staff have been so dedicated and skilled in negotiating these recent times. The Governing body plays a largely unseen but significant role in overseeing the school's strategy, educational performance and finances in partnership with the Minster Trust for Education. In the last 3 years we have reassessed and reformed the way the Governing body works, to ensure we give the Headteacher, staff and of course pupils and parents the support they deserve. The structural changes introduced have led to a clearer and more insightful group of Governors, who are doing such a good job learning how the school is operating in order to affirm (often) and give constructive challenges (on occasion). As Chair I have learned a lot and feel it has been a privilege to fulfil this role.

Having a wider role in the life of Bleasby CE Schools is one of the highlights of my ministry, it is a real joy to come into school and interact with staff and especially your wonderful children! Thank you. I hope you have had a Christmas full of peace and good will.

May the blessing you seek, be the one God can give you! Revd Phil White

Communications

Thank you very much to those of you who completed our questionnaire last term, your ideas for simplifying communication have been very helpful.

We will be discussing this further with staff, governors and the BSFA to try and reach a more timely, consistent and streamlined approach. We are also in the process of renewing the website to make it simpler to navigate and to post content onto.

In the meantime:

Text messages are used for quick information or if we can't get hold of you on the phone.

Letters will all be in the form of email, rather than paper and will also be uploaded onto the website.

Key dates (that we already have) will be on this newsletter (sorry, this will have to remain half termly as it just takes too long to write more often) and then kept up to date on the school website calendar.

Bleasby Booklets will be updated weekly for the week ahead - please make sure your child has theirs in school!

Please bear with us, we will still have a few glitches, but are aiming to have a much better system in place as soon as possible.

Dates for your Diaries

5th Jan - Return to school
5th Jan - Opening of the new Trim Trail!
6th Jan - Woodland celebrating Spanish Epiphany
1st Feb 5pm - Curriculum Parents Information Event
3rd Feb - Young Voices choir to Sheffield Arena
8th Feb 4:30 - Y6 SATs Parents Information Event
9th Feb - Break up for half term
10th Feb - School closed for INSET
20th Feb - Return to school
27th Feb & 1st Mar - Parents' Evenings
13th March - Science Week starts
15th, 16th, 17th March - Maple to Kingswood
22nd March - Woodland's performance of the Pied Piper
24th March - BSFA 'Break the Rules Day'
28th & 29th March - MITRE Partnership Review
30th March - Last day of Spring Term
31st March - School closed for INSET
17th April - Return to school for Summer Term



News from the BSFA:

We did it!

Work has been completed and the new school trim trail is ready for the start of the new term, this has been 18 months of fundraising by you, our wonderful school community.

We've hosted disco's, sponsored walks, we've bounced and had cinema nights. Shoppers of Southwell co-op generously generated the BSFA over £4200 through their community fund and you raised the rest of the £22,000!

"The BSFA asked parents, carers and the school community what big ticket items they would like for school, the response was to update and improve the existing play equipment, so that was our target" says BSFA Chair; Katherine Huxtable-Drake.

Three designs were created, the chosen design was selected by the class representatives on the school council.

We can't wait to see the children enjoying the new addition to their playground.

We held a grand opening ceremony with the children on Thursday and the classes will then each have a turn across the week to use the new equipment. (Thanks to the surfacing it can be used when the field is muddy!)

Please do be vigilante when using the equipment out of school hours.

