



Peppard C.E. (V.C.) Primary School
Church Lane,
Rotherfield Peppard,
Henley on Thames,
Oxfordshire RG9 5JU

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER – Summer Term 2017

As another school year comes to a close it provides an opportunity to reflect on another busy year at Peppard.

The academic year began with a successful SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection and report. This was followed a month later by the OFSTED inspection which reinforced our 'Good' School Status. This supports the excellent work undertaken by all the staff at Peppard in order for the children to achieve their full potential.

Throughout the year the children have presented each of the school values; Integrity, Respect, Wisdom, Courage, Forgiveness and Service, at the regular church services. Their interpretation through song, poems or role play have been excellent and a joy to attend. We would like to thank Reverend James and Mrs Bryon for all the hard work they have invested in these services as part of Worship Council.

The children have continued to participate in a wide range of inter school competitions including Cross Country, Football, Touch Rugby, Netball, Cricket, Swimming and Triathlon to name but few.

These opportunities support the commitment of the staff and Governors at Peppard to provide each and every pupil with the best opportunities and experiences, so that they can achieve fully and become life-long learners.

THE GOVERNING BODY

We would like to welcome Bill Tanner to the Governing Body, as an Associate member.

SCHOOL RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Most parents will be aware of the fact that the school has ambitious plans for new accommodation. However, many will not be aware how this project came about, where it has got to and what the future holds.

Peppard School was established as a church trust in 1871 for "the education of the labouring classes" with a single classroom. Since then it has expanded to a four class school of 100 pupils serving a wide area of South Oxfordshire. The accommodation has grown over the years by a number of extensions and additions. We now have an arrangement of six separate buildings which are both expensive to run and maintain with numerous shortcomings for a 21st century education, not least the lack of a school hall.

Several years ago the Governors made a strategic review of the school accommodation and came to the conclusion that even with unlimited funds the school could not be brought up to modern standards due to the very limited size of the present site. They decided unanimously that the only solution was a new school on a new site. This plan received the full support of both OCC and the Diocese of Oxford. The Governors were fortunate in being able to buy an ideal site within the village with access from the B481 layby near "The Dog". A design suitable for the AONB was prepared and fully costed by Atkins architects and full planning

consent has been obtained. The architect's model can be seen at school. Due to funding difficulties the planning consent has been amended to allow a two phase implementation. The first is preliminary development to provide a much-needed sports facility; the second is construction of the school building proper.

The first stage is largely complete and should be ready for school use in the autumn term. This comprises the hard court, which will ultimately be the school playground [with associated storm water drainage for the finished school], a new entrance on to the layby and improvements to pedestrian access from Church Lane. A group of "school dads" has undertaken an amazing fundraising effort, which together with proceeds from the school fete, should allow the provision of an on-site changing facility.

Project costs have so far been financed from a variety of sources including some very generous local benefactors. Completion of stage two will be financed partly from the redevelopment value of the existing site, partly by philanthropy and partly from public funds. The reduction in Central Government grants to all local authorities means that the previously anticipated public sector contribution is not currently available. There is thus a need to pursue every possible alternative source of funds in order to maintain project momentum.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

We would like to thank Miss Ballantyne for all her hard work over the last 3 years as the year 5 and 6 teacher and wish her all the success in the future at her new school.

We would also like to thank Mrs Barlow for her support as a SEN teaching assistant and wish her all the best for her relocation abroad.

THANK YOU

To all the school staff at Peppard for their hard work this year and also the parent helpers who give up their time to assist in classes or on school trips.

We also want to thank FOPS and DOPS for all their fund raising activities this year and support they give to the school.

Last but not least a thank you to all the children for making Peppard such a wonderful school.

We would like to wish you all an enjoyable summer.

Christine Bradbury – Chair of Governors