



Welcome to the Autumn term newsletter from the governing body of Bentley Church of England V.C. and Copdock Primary Schools.

If you feel you have something to contribute, see the section below on recruiting new governors...



Jo Austin
Headteacher



Dennis Kell
Chair



Simon Hurst
Vice Chair



Rev Don
Meheh



Louise
Amphlett-Lewis



Tracey Deakin



Ruth Lincoln



Craig Partridge



Rachael Rudge



Mark Schofield



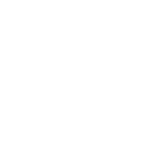
Mark Starling



Jo Willis



Martin Taylor



Paul Kerslake

Governor Monitoring - Writing

One of the key monitoring areas governors have been focusing on this term is the enhancement of Writing across the schools. A new writing programme called IPEELL, has been introduced this year and appears to have been received well by teachers and students alike.

Mrs Austin has been taking part in the "Good to Unstoppable" program in conjunction with Head teachers at two other schools in the local authority. Copdock was visited recently as part of this program and teaching was assessed by another Head Teacher for the day. The feedback was presented to Governors at the end of the day and was on the whole very positive, highlighting the clear progress in Writing which has happened following the implementation of IPEELL.

Grounds and Parking

Space is at a premium in our schools and this is a topic that's frequently discussed with regards to how existing areas can be more efficiently utilised along with any opportunities for creating new learning areas.

We pay close attention to local planning developments and are aware of speculation surrounding land for new housing.

Finally, could we respectfully ask that consideration is shown to other parents and our neighbours when parking in and around the school.

Website...

A reminder that our website can be found at www.bentleycopdock.co.uk/

Staff are making sure the site is regularly updated with what's happening in and around the schools. You will also find lots of useful information such as term dates, class information and policies along with historic newsletters so please go ahead and take a look - we'd also welcome any feedback.

Parent Questionnaire – Responses Received

A big thank you to all those parents and carers who completed the recent on-line questionnaire. Obtaining your feedback on our school is hugely important and allows us the opportunity to consider your views and action accordingly. We chose to publish the questionnaire onto the new website but unfortunately encountered a few technical issues which have now been resolved. This may have meant not everyone could access the link so please accept our apologies.

Of the replies we received, an overwhelming majority (96per cent) either strongly agreed or agreed with the positive ethos of both schools, the quality of teaching, the progress of the children and the leadership and management of both schools. Similarly, responses were extremely positive about the information shared with parents about their children.

There were one or two areas of concern but these were individually based and quite specific matters which the headteacher and chair of governors are well aware of and acting on to resolve. It was acknowledged by a couple of parents that the increase of children at Bentley has placed additional pressures on staff. Governors are aware of the challenges that quick growth of pupil numbers creates within school and are actively planning how to ensure staff are continually well supported to maintain the fantastic job they do to meet everyone's needs.

We are keen to ensure a wide range of activities are on offer to the children at school, which for small schools we do extremely well. Thank you for acknowledging this. Where possible, we will try to review the provision of more creative activities, but this is a challenge due to small staff numbers and available time. If any parents would be keen to deliver or support some workshops with children, e.g. cooking or art clubs, we would be happy to hear your views.

As governors, we have been pleased to hear that parents with questions or concerns have been more active in coming in to school to discuss these with teachers or Mrs Austin. We would encourage more parents to use this approach to prevent any worries becoming a bigger issue for either parents or the school. We are aware that some parents have recently chosen to avoid playground discussion as they have been uncomfortable about topics of conversation.

Therefore please support us to work in partnership by talking to a member of staff, so we can find solutions to any worries you may have.

It is pleasing to note that parents and carers are very satisfied and value greatly the care and teaching received at Bentley and Copdock.

Visits

In addition to attending meetings, many of us have also spent time in the schools as part of ongoing monitoring.

- Ruth Lincoln, Louise Amphlett-Lewis, Martin Taylor and Mark Starling visited Copdock to receive the feedback from the "Good to Unstoppable" assessment.
- Simon Hurst has carried out Health and Safety checks at both schools.
- Paul Kerslake and Martin Taylor have undertaken visits looking at asset management
- Paul Kerslake attended parents evening.
- Don Mehen and Ruth Lincoln reviewed school ethos at Bentley.
- Dennis Kell has been on learning walks across both schools, looking at displays, the engagement of the children in learning and the implementation of IPEELL at Copdock.

Would you like to be more involved?

If you would like to know more about the role of school governor, information is available on the school website and Dennis Kell, Chair of Governors, would be happy to discuss the role in more detail with any interested parties.

Please contact the school office in the first instance who will pass on your contact details.