

Neroche Community Primary School - Governors' Newsletter

Newsletter: Spring 2017
 Chair: David Pugh
 Vice-Chair: Dave Tucker



Fantastic Result!

The Governing Body is delighted to report that its bid to bring the pre-school on site has been successful. Somerset's bid for funding was approved by the Government's Educational Funding Agency at the end of 2016/beginning of 2017, and the school's Business Plan has been submitted and accepted. The project has gone through planning requirements, plans have been drawn up, and groundwork will commence on 19th June, with completion of the project ready for children to attend from September. This is a wonderful result, and thanks to all those who have worked so hard to reach this goal. It means exciting times ahead as the project takes shape, and we are able to fine tune the end result. Bringing the pre-school on site has been an ambition of successive Governing Bodies for many years. The accommodation will enhance the quality of provision available to these young children, and the fact that Neroche will now have provision from 2 - 11 will see greater continuity for children in the local community for years to come. The Governing Body has been working with the Pre-School Committee to ensure a smooth transition, and would like to thank members of that Committee for their commitment, support and hard work in recent months. You will know from recent newsletters, that Mrs. Claire Bowditch will be co-ordinating work in the unit, which will see existing pre-school and school staff working together under the direction of the school, which now assumes full responsibility. Exciting times are ahead for our youngest children. and we look forward to welcoming them.

Governing Body

This term has seen the resignation of Paula Gibson from the Governing Body. Paula has been a Governor at Neroche for a staggering ten years, and has given amazing service to the school during that time. Her specialism has been personnel, and she has been a great support to our Headteacher and governors in all matters relating to staffing and recruitment. Paula has also been the Vice-Chair of Governors, and I would personally like to thank her for the support she has given me as Chair during that time, and the endless cups of coffee she has made while we have been discussing policies and procedures! (DP).

The Governing Body is still mindful of the Regional Schools Commissioner's thoughts on Multi-Academy Trusts, and whilst not wanting to rush into anything immediately, governors are continually discussing possibilities and looking at structures which could benefit the children in our care in the future.

Staff and Governors at Neroche have also been asked to support other schools in Somerset this term. Currently we are working with staff and governors in two schools. This work, whilst helping other schools to operate effectively and efficiently, gives our staff and governors good personal and professional development opportunities, which in turn reflect back into our practice at Neroche.

Thanks also for your questionnaire returns. More details will follow separately, but it is good to know that of the returns received, 100% of parents and carers think 'The school provides a safe environment for my child.' When we last undertook the questionnaire in 2015, 'The school provides an interesting range of activities, clubs and sports outside lessons' was rated at 64% agree/strongly agree - this has now risen to 91% following the work the Governing Body undertook to enhance this provision.

School Council and Pupil Achievements

Our School Council has been working hard again this term in organizing Red Nose Day activities and related sales. This year a total of £520 was raised and this will go to worthy causes in order to enhance life opportunities for children and young people. The School Council would like to thank you for your support.

They are busy working on the Easter Egg competition and will be continuing the successful 'Wear Trainers To School Day'. Last year all contributions were for the Ilminster Food Bank. This year awareness is being raised of local charities and good causes which need support.

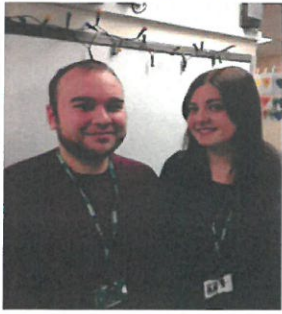
Recently Dave Tucker, the Governing Body's Lead on Safeguarding met with the School Council to continue with their chosen theme of 'safeguarding'. The School Council also worked with the NSPCC on this earlier in the term, and raised a staggering £1,900 for its continued work with children and young people.

Future Events

- ◆ Last day of term :
Friday 31st March,
2017
- ◆ First day of term :
Tuesday 18th April,
2017

Congratulations.....

- to our talented children who have taken part in many sporting activities and Clubs outside school with great success, particularly in swimming, gymnastics, tennis, bowls, football, cross country running and rugby - what an amazing group
- to all children and families at Neroche who have embraced 'Accelerated Reader,' taking part in quizzes and generally raising the profile of reading both at home and at school



Welcome to Neroche Miss Wilcox and Mr. Smith - we hope you enjoy working with us.



It's 'Quiz Time' - Accelerated Reader makes an impressive start across the school.



The performances of Jonah have been enjoyed by everyone taking part.



Yum yum - Breakfast Club continues to be a successful school project.

Teaching, Learning & Standards Committee

The major curriculum initiative this term has been the introduction of 'Accelerated Reader' throughout the school, which started in January. Following a great deal of preparation, which involved all staff, parents and children, the scheme is now running very successfully. It is clear that the motivation and interest levels of the children have been raised, and this has been done through the introduction of new quality reading books suitable for particular ages and interests, quizzes and reward systems. Particularly interesting are the email alerts when quizzes have been taken at school, so that parents and carers can immediately feel part of the process, can see how successful the quizzes are, and can keep a watchful eye on the word count!

Contact with our two 'link' schools in Luton and Riec-sur-Belon are developing. A visit to Denbeigh Primary School in Luton in March, with a return visit next term, and a visit from the twinning group from Riec-sur-Belon in June will hopefully develop and strengthen these ties.

The Willow Schools Co-operative Trust Shakespeare Project was a great success, and congratulations to Miss Wilcox and Year 4 for representing the school so enthusiastically. Well done also to our School Choir for their recent input into the area music evening at Holyrood.

Resources Committee

At Neroche our biggest resource is people, and we are pleased to welcome Miss Sarah Wilcox (Year 4) and Mr. James Smith (Year 3) to the teaching staff this term. We have been very fortunate in appointing two teachers who have immediately settled into school life here at Neroche and are positively contributing to the continued success of the school. Both Miss Wilcox and Mr. Smith will be with us for the remainder of this academic year and the next, which is great news for us all. At this time we also wish our long serving teaching assistant Mrs. Haillie Dellow a successful recovery from her recent operation and a speedy return to school - we all miss her input into classroom activities and especially Forest School fun! We also congratulate Mr. & Mrs. Deem on the birth of their second child Henry. You will have seen that the fascia boards are still covered in plastic sheeting! This is because at the last minute, just before work was about to start, the Company employed by the County to undertake the work went into liquidation, and so the process had to start all over again. We are now hoping that the work will be completed by the beginning of June, and as the problem originally occurred in November 2015, it can't be a moment too soon! Hopefully the internal and external fabric of our school will then get back to its usual high standard.

Thanks to the watchful eye of Lead Governor Gary Smith and the prudent housekeeping of staff, we remain in a healthy financial state overall, and have been able to set a strong budget for 2017-2018, which maintains our current staffing and resourcing, as well as enhances the major developments the school is planning with regards to bringing the pre-school on site and the further promotion of Accelerated Reader.

Thanks to the vast majority of parents and carers who completed the recent questionnaire (89% of parents and carers, quite a record response!). Our Lead Governor for Parents and Community, Tim Gibson, will be analyzing the responses and you will be hearing from us shortly about how our school is rated by its users! However, as a taster, here are some of the positives from your responses :

'You know each and every child very well.'

'Confidence of the children is obvious and a real strength of the school.'

'A lovely school, the children are encouraged to build positive relationships.'

'Neroche ensures our children reach their potential.'

And 100% of parent/carer responses strongly agreed/agreed that 'The school expects my child to work hard and achieve his or her best.'

And finally..... Welcome to any new families who have joined us this term, we hope you will have a long and happy association with our school. Please remember we are all here for the benefit of our children, so if there is anything you feel you can contribute, or need to ask - just find one of the Governors and we will be pleased to listen! Have an enjoyable Easter break with your friends and family - we are back to school on 18th April, and the Summer Term at Neroche promises to be an exciting time for us all.



GREENFYLDE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FIRST SCHOOL including Sunny Ile Pre-School



SILVER STREET, ILMINSTER, SOMERSET TA19 0DS

Telephone: Ilminster (01460) 52686

Fax: Ilminster (01460) 55780

Email: greenfylde@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Website Address: www.greenfylde.somerset.sch.uk

Headteacher: Miss Claire Oaten

Update for Ilminster Town Council – April 2017

How do you look at a piece of art? Do you look at it critically or are you someone who tries to place themselves in the shoes of the artist to understand their motivations? Well I can safely say that here at Greenfylde when we look at art this May it will be with an immense amount of pride.

Next month we are thrilled to be holding our second whole school Art Exhibition at The Arts Centre based at The Meeting House here in Ilminster. Every child from pre-school to Year 4 will be represented in the pieces on display and the exhibition runs from Tuesday 2nd May to Saturday 13th May and we hope many in our Town Council will choose to visit.

As before our art will be an eclectic mix showcasing the talents of our pupils. Art is wonderful for one key reason, there is no wrong or right as every piece is 'right' in the eyes of the artist. We encourage our children in any artistic endeavour to be pleased and rightly proud of their creation, celebrating not only their ideas but also their perseverance and creativity in developing a finished piece. Every class will be visiting the exhibition as we learn to be conscious of our own talents as well as appreciating the abilities of others. Our aim, as with all of our wider learning in school, is to encourage our children to grasp all opportunities to explore their abilities and see just what they can achieve. Unfortunately, as we age we all tend to become aware of what we 'can't do' and become less willing to try something that we perceive as out of our comfort zone so at Greenfylde we aim to catch our pupils at an early age before these conscious decisions are made.

In this exhibition we will be showcasing more industrial art as we include sculptural pieces from our recent engineering week along with carnival themes and wider work celebrating Art in all of its forms so please come and share in our artistic talent.

This half term Year 3s will be visiting Coombe Farm as part of their wider learning, celebrating our farming heritage and understanding the role we all play in the area farming cycle.

We are also looking forward to again hosting the Poetry Recital final at the second Ilminster Literary Festival. This year we have managed to increase the number of schools involved and are proud of our ongoing role in encouraging future generations to appreciate the wonder of the poetic word.

Finally, our Pre-School will be hosting its Open Morning on Saturday 10th June. Our Pre-School is going from strength to strength with families appreciating our knowledge and skill in delivering a wide range of learning experiences for 2 to 4 year olds.

Claire Oaten
Headteacher



