



<p>Update from the Governing Body</p>	<p>Contents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction2. Review of this academic year3. Leadership & staffing from September4. Key areas of focus this term5. Sustainability6. Attendance7. Priorities for next term8. Governing body changes and developments	<p>Summer 2016/17</p>
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Introduction

It seems quite unbelievable that this is our final newsletter for this academic year; the time has gone so quickly! As always at this time of the year, it's been a very busy end to the term, with lots of trips, visits to new schools, sports days, summer fairs, camps and productions that we've all enjoyed.

We would like to once again congratulate the staff and children for the excellent achievements in this year's SATs. A huge thank you to everyone in each of the staff teams for all the hard work and effort; and to all the parents whose support makes such a difference and enables the whole team to do their best for your children.

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6s and wish them well on their school journeys from September; we have enjoyed seeing them learn and grow and thank them for all their hard work over the years they have been with us.

Review of this year

Burley

It has been a busy year at Burley and we have all enjoyed celebrating the children's learning with open afternoons where guests visited the Rainforests, travelled back to WW2 with a tea dance, the children have had days dressed as ancient Greeks and Tudor Kings and Queens. The children have enjoyed trips to the beach and crazy golf, Beaulieu

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adminoffice@burley.hants.sch.uk
01425 403375
<http://burley.hants.sch.uk/>

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River, theatre visits to The Twits, Marwell Zoo & Hampton Court. There have been forest days with crafts and activities. Year 5/6 experienced an amazing 5 day residential trip to The Isle of Wight at the beginning of July; we hear great fun was had by all! In addition, school has participated in various sporting events; cross country, football, tag rugby and athletics.

Sopley

Sopley is coming to the end of a fruitful year which has included a variety of special events and activities. Back in September, Year 5/6 experienced the delights of a residential trip to the Isle of Wight, which was so popular that the children re-created Camp Sopley last week and had an amazing day designing and building dens and enjoyed a cook out! There has been an Art and Nature day, Heart Start first aid course, delicious fudge making and creating new flavours, garden activities from growing vegetables to making bird feeders. Trips to the Tutankhamen museum at Dorchester, Swanage by train, bus and steam train, Weald and Downland Museum and to round the year off the children completed a 'Race for Life' to raise money for cancer research by running 1,3 or 5K - the total funds raised stand at £2,100 and rising, well done to all!

Each school held their annual Summer Fair and we would like to thank the BPSA & FSS for their hard work to ensure a fun and memorable day was had by all in addition to raising valuable funds for each school. It is fantastic to see the children using the resources provided, such as a new friendship shelter in the playground at Sopley and the much needed laptops. The BPSA are working with the school to plan the purchase of new resources for the children at Burley; laptops are one of the suggested priorities - whatever the final decision we know the resources will be much appreciated by the children and staff.

The new governing body have also had a very full and productive year - we thank Dan and all the staff for everything that has been achieved for the children.

The governors all started the year knowing much more about one of the two schools but as the months have passed we have learned more about each school and our new team. Our schools share many similarities but there are also important differences which need to be accounted for in the way in which we plan for improvements. A great deal of time has gone into the self-evaluation and improvement plan for both schools. As the first cycle of school improvement under the new federation arrangements draws to a close it is very pleasing to report that we are seeing the impact in a number of areas including:

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- ✓ Consistent systems to support good teaching and learning are in place across both schools. Staff are working together on moderation and a good foundation has been established to enable further joint working and the sharing of good practice.
- ✓ The latest analysis of national testing and assessments (Y6, Y2, Y1, YR) shows that, in both schools, children are making good progress from their individual starting points.
- ✓ The attainment of children at the end of key stage 2 (Y6) at Burley school has been consistently in the top 5% of schools nationally for 3 consecutive years.
- ✓ The investment in a new federation wide tracking system has proved to be an effective tool and our internal tracking of children in the remaining year groups (Y3, 4 & 5) shows that children are on track to meet the milestones set out in our improvement plan. These targets are rigorous and set with input from an external adviser.
- ✓ At Sopley, standards in Maths have been improving rapidly and outcomes for Early Years place the school highly amongst local schools.
- ✓ Internal testing, assessment and moderation processes have been shown to be robust - we have been externally moderated by Hampshire in Early Years, at the end of key stage (Y2) and at the end of key stage 2 (Y6) - the feedback was very positive in each case and the school judgements were confirmed.
- ✓ We have undertaken a systematic review of safeguarding arrangements across the federation and were pleased to experience a thorough review of our work as part of the Ofsted inspection at Burley - schools cannot achieve a 'good' outcome unless safeguarding is shown to be effective.
- ✓ We have made a start on rationalising roles and responsibilities across the schools: Executive Headteacher and Head of School model is working well; from September the role of SENCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator) will work across both schools as will a shared Caretaker with oversight of H&S.

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Leadership and Leadership from September

We are looking forward to welcoming Mr Matthew Hill as Executive Headteacher (interim) at the beginning of term. He recently spent time in both schools and has been working with the governors, Mr Twyman and Mrs Harvey so that he has a good understanding of both schools and the priorities we are working towards from September.

We will also welcome Ms Andrea Hodgson & Mrs Elizabeth Knowles (Heads of School) and Mrs Abigail Pilkington (Yr 1 /2 teacher) at Sopley and Mrs Heidi O'Connor, Mrs Nicola Pothas, Mrs Leanne Bushnell (teaching assistants), Mr Peter Lillis (caretaker) and are looking forward to seeing Mrs Shutler (Yr R teacher) return from her maternity leave at Burley.

Schools across the country are facing growing trends towards a higher turnover of staff and staff shortages. In the face of such challenges we are delighted with the outcome of our recent appointments. However, just as importantly, we have retained many of our valued staff who routinely go 'above and beyond' for our children. The fact that all staff know the children in each school means that even when there is change, as there is in all schools, our children still have familiar adults who know them as individuals.

Key areas of focus this term

- ❖ Federation and school leadership & staffing structure from September
- ❖ Recruitment including; Interim Executive Headteacher, Head of School - Sopley, Teacher, Teaching Assistants, Caretaker
- ❖ Working with parents and carers - series of drop in sessions and parentmail communications to keep parents informed about the leadership changes and other matters
- ❖ Reviewing progress and evaluating the impact of the school improvement plan
- ❖ Evaluation of outcomes for all pupils and groups of pupils
- ❖ Financial forecasting and budget plans
- ❖ Policy reviews with a focus on aligning practice across the federation.
<http://www.sopleyprimaryschool.org/federation/federation-policies/>
- ❖ Review of the information on our school websites

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- ❖ Audit of arrangements for safeguarding children
- ❖ Termly audit of Health and Safety arrangements
- ❖ New governor recruitment and induction
- ❖ Development of our existing governors and review of governance arrangements for September

Sustainability

Ensuring the financial sustainability of the schools is an ongoing challenge and we are working hard to maintain the safety and quality of provision across the federation.

Much has been written about the uncertainty about the proposed funding formula and the fact that all types of schools are having to manage rising costs with flat funding i.e. a reduction in real terms.

Thanks to everyone who wrote to local MPs - we also wrote as a governing body. We also met with Philip Daubeney, Chair Burley Parish Council and Keith Mans, Deputy Leader Hampshire County Council in May. During the meeting we discussed the impact the budget cuts and restrictions along with the ongoing sustainability issues all schools are facing.

The precise impact of a new national funding formula remains to be seen; we keep a watchful eye on developments and will update you as we learn more. We will continue to look at protecting the finances and financially strengthening the Federation, as well as investigating ways to raise funds for the schools.

Attendance

The attendance from last term is 95.3% at Burley and 94.6% at Sopley. The national average and expected level of attendance is 95.8%.

We would like to thank all parents for their continued support this year in ensuring your children are at school. A high level of attendance is so important and essential for our children to benefit from their education. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less. It is vital that your child is at school, on time, every day school is open, unless the reason for their absence is unavoidable.

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Priorities for next term

- ❖ Working as a new leadership team to continue the good work that is already underway
- ❖ Consultation on a federation anti-bullying strategy
- ❖ Report outcomes from Burley pupil interviews/survey
- ❖ Sustainability - responding to the evolving local and national changes

Governing body changes and developments

We are saying goodbye to two long serving governors: Kevin Day and Brenda Atkinson who have been governors at Burley and Sopley respectively for many years, and part of the federation for this year. We would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication to our schools - we will miss their wisdom and friendship.

We welcome 3 new governors, Sue Johnston, Ruth Dennison and Andrew Mears. All 3 bring much experience in different areas of education and we are looking forward to working with them.

Michael Lester has resigned as the Vice-Chair of the Federation. However he will still be a co-opted governor. Portia Moule and Maria Speirs will take over as joint Vice-chairs. An updated list of the governing body roles and responsibilities will be published on the school website in due course <http://www.sopleyprimaryschool.org/federation/governor-details>

We welcome any feedback about the schools, and you can share your views by speaking to any of the governors or by contacting the clerk to the governors, Liz Holroyd, who works in the school office at Sopley on 01425 672343 or admin@sopley.hants.sch.uk

We would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication this year. In our first year of the Federation we have celebrated many successes and are confident that from September we will be able to continue to grow and develop and do what is best for our children.

Wishing you all a safe and happy break - we hope that you have the chance to relax and enjoy spending time together.

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