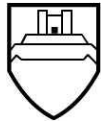




Stratford – Sub – Castle Church of England VC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Kay Bridson B.A (Hons) PGCE



Learning for life in a positive and caring Christian community



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Monday 5th December 2016

Dear All,

Thank you.....

For helping to make the Christmas Bazaar on Friday such a success. It just proved what a strong community we are! Thank you to all the PTA committee who worked so hard behind the scenes to get everything prepared. However, the PTA committee could not have succeeded without your generosity; helping to make the stalls and the Rainbow Raffle so sparkling! To everyone who baked cakes and biscuits, made preserves, donated gifts, manned stalls, helped set up and helped to tidy up at the end a very big THANK YOU! The money raised is still being counted and I will let you know the outcome as soon as I hear! Congratulations to the winners of the Rainbow Raffle:

Butterfly Class: RED, The Clare family / Owl Class: BLUE, Charlotte Hunt / Woodpecker Class: GREEN, Joel Lancaster/ Robin Class: GOLD, Mrs. Clare Smith / Kestrel Class: SILVER, The Hecks family.

Thank you.....

To everyone who helped to raise £105.10 for the CAIRN Trust. A charity working with schools in rural Nepal. A fabulous effort and I was so proud of everyone involved!

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CARDS / POST BOX: NOW OPEN!

The school "Christmas Post Box" is now situated in the library. All cards should be placed in the box addressed with FULL NAME (first and second name) and CLASS. Please remember this is only for school cards! Please do not confuse this with the scouts either! This is an internal school delivery service only!

SALISBURY SCHOOLS CAROL CONCERT/ CITY HALL: TONIGHT!

Good luck to our very excited and very special Christmas Choir, performing tonight at the City Hall. Many thanks to Mrs. Aylett for preparing the children so well. Unfortunately we have been issued very few tickets for the event so there will be many disappointed people. Sorry! If you are taking part please meet in the foyer of the City Hall at about 17:55 – 18:05. A staff member will be there to meet you.

Coming up very soon...

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS MEAL: TUESDAY 13TH DECEMBER

This is a joyful festive event when the whole staff and many governors eat Christmas lunch with the children. Crackers and napkins are provided by the PTA.

Please put the reply slip and payment (£2:30) in an envelope marked 'Christmas dinner' in the usual black dinner box near the school office. (I did not make this clear in my previous letter. Sorry! If you have already returned your slip and now wish to pay please mark your envelope with your name.) Please note pupils may have a packed lunch on this day if they so desire, a hot

Christmas lunch is not compulsory. Please let us know if this is the case by returning the reply slip. Children may wear non-school uniform on this day. (No charge, just for fun). We are encouraging Christmas jumpers but they are not compulsory. Wear what you want as long as it can be played in safely!

OFSTED UPDATE

As you are aware, the school received an OFSTED inspection in May 2015. The school was judged by the inspector Andrew Saunders to be “Requiring Improvement”. As a school with small cohorts and a significant number of pupils with individual needs, we are always aware that each pupil represents a large percentage of any cohort and that our official statistics don’t tell the whole story of the good work the school does.

However, the governors and I have been determined to take “criticism on the chin” and to respond in a way that provides a good example to our pupils. We have been committed to work together in a focused way and to demonstrate perseverance and resilience for our pupils and for the school now and in the future. A School Improvement Action Plan (SIAP) was implemented in 2015 / 2016 and a new one for 2016/ 2017 is currently being implemented. This aims to build on the hard work of last year.

The school has collaborated with several other school and advisers since May 2015 in order to respond to the improvements required by the May 2015 inspection. The Governance of the school has also undergone a Full Review of Governance, as recommended by Andrew Saunders. In February 2016 the school was visited by HMI Catherine Leahy in a monitoring capacity, who concluded, ‘*You have set about improving the school with determination and the urgency required to address the areas for improvement identified at the previous inspection.*’ During this time the Full Governing Body has held regular School Effectiveness Reviews attended by both the Local Authority and Diocesan Board of Education. The evidence considered at these reviews has included a range of monitoring and evaluative activities conducted by Governors, subject Leaders, advisers and the senior leadership team of the school. These include lesson observations, book scrutiny, data analysis including pupil tracking, pupil interviews and consultations with parents.

All the School Effectiveness Reviews have been encouraging coming to the conclusion that the school is taking effective action to be judged good at the next Section 5 inspection. However, the last two held on 12th July 2016 and 10th November 2016 came to the conclusion that the school is well placed to be judged good the next Section 5 inspection. Since the last inspection:

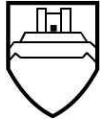
- The teaching of writing is consistently good or better. Writing outcomes for pupils at both KS1 and KS2 were in line with the national average in 2016.
- All children across the school are expected to and do respond to the feedback they are given. Pupils are working with greater intensity and concentration.
- Pupils take more responsibility for their own learning and are encouraged by staff to grapple with their work themselves. Pupils use the resources provided for them independently and as a matter of course.
- Expectations have been raised and the vast majority of pupils are encouraged to aim for the ‘End of Year Expectations’. These are more explicitly shared with pupils and parents. Staff help pupils to ‘bite off’ their learning in manageable and appropriate bite-sized pieces.
- The most able pupils are encouraged to undertake challenging work using a new sun, moon, stars, shooting stars method of sharing expectations and *success criteria*.
- A new format for recording the SIAP has been adopted as well as a weekly task sheet outlining who is responsible for actions. This has ensured rapid implementation of improvements.
- The Governing Body of the school has expanded to ensure there are more members to share the strategic view of the school and to work at the updating policies in line with changes to national legislation.

If you are interested in looking at the School Improvement documents in full or looking again at reports they may be found on the school web-site.



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