



Camestone Lower School Governing Body

Summer Term Newsletter 2015

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to our Summer Term newsletter. We would like to share with you some of the achievements from this year:

THE NEW CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

The new national curriculum has been implemented in Year 1, 3 and 4. Year 2 will be following the new curriculum from 2015/16 in line with Government requirements. The key aspects of the new curriculum are:

Literacy: An increased emphasis on grammar, spelling and punctuation.

Numeracy: A focus on becoming fluent in numeracy and exploring deeper into the subject, thinking mathematically and solving problems.

As you may be aware the government have removed the use of levels when assessing pupils. At Camestone a new assessment format (without levels) has been developed which has been implemented across all year groups. Each child is expected to make 3 points progress in a year. At Camestone we set an aspirational target of 4 points progress. The Camestone assessment model has been shared with other local schools.

With this new model in mind we are able to report the following results in 2014/15.

Foundation Stage

57% of pupils have reached a 'Good Level of Development' (based on Early Learning Goals) This compares with a 2014 national figure of 60%. We have found the results for Foundation Stage change year on year depending on the level of development the children have when they start in September.

We have looked at the children who have not quite reached the Good Level of Development and we found that in reading average progress was 4.9 points, in writing 4.6 points and in Numbers 4.9 points (the expected progress is 3 points). Therefore excellent progress has been made.

Years 1, 3 and 4 - following the new curriculum and using the new assessment model.

Average progress points for 2015 (expectation = 3 points progress)			
	Reading	Writing	Maths
Year 1	3.5	3.6	3.9
Year 3	3.4	3.8	3.8
Year 4	4	3.8	3.8

Year 2 - following the old curriculum and have been assessed using levels.

Reading - 83% of pupils achieved a level 2b and above (2014 national figure - 81%)

Writing - 73% of pupils achieved a level 2b and above (2014 national figure - 70%)

Maths - 75% of pupils achieved a level 2b and above (2014 national figure - 80%)

This represents very good progress. When the current year 2 were in Foundation Stage (2013) only 38% of the children had achieved a Good Level of Development compared to 52% nationally. To give an example, 35% MORE pupils have now met or exceeded the expected target for maths compared to when they were in Foundation.

The children in all year groups can be very proud of their achievements this year. Well done.

Other Achievements

The Foundation Stage moderation visit by Bedford Borough Council in May identified the following strengths: excellent knowledge of pupils, outstanding internal moderation, and good examples of parental involvement. Camestone has been asked to share its 'Best Practice' with other schools in the Local Authority. Congratulations to all Foundation Staff.

Year 2 also had a very good moderation visit in June. This identified key strengths : good evidence in Maths, assessment judgements which were well supported, the teachers had a sound knowledge of the pupils, and a wide range of evidence supported judgements. The moderation team recommended that good practice be shared within the key stage. Well done to all the Year 2 staff.

OTHER NEWS

School Values

In line with school aims, the staff at Camestone have been working together on reviewing and updating the 'Values education'. A presentation was given to the governing body in May and all

children will begin the new programme in September with values such as kindness, respect and creativity being integrated into their learning.

Attendance

Attendance has been 95.24% this year. This is a slight drop from last year which can largely be explained by illness however we have a significant number of unauthorized absences from school.

From September the government are changing the criteria for 'Persistent Absentees' from those whose attendance is less than 85% to attendance less than 90%. This will inevitably have an impact on more parents. If your child's attendance falls below 90% you will be asked to attend a meeting in school to discuss it, and if necessary, meet with the Bedford Borough Education Welfare Officer.

We ask all parents to ensure their child is in school, unless they are unwell. Poor attendance significantly impacts on your child's progress.

School leadership

Since October 2014 the Governing Body have undertaken a review of the school leadership. As a result we have been successful in recruiting two Assistant Head Teachers.

In September 2015 -

Mrs Merritt will be Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for Foundation and Year 1, Miss Ducker will be Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for Years 2 - 4.

In addition, both will have cross-school responsibilities ensuring continuity for pupils as they progress through the school.

Both Assistant Head Teachers will support Mr Stanyard as Head teacher, ensuring a strong leadership structure that can focus on the future of Camestone and respond to immediate challenges.

We are sure you will join us in supporting Mrs Merritt and Miss Ducker in their new roles.

GOVERNING BODY BUSINESS

Clerk to Governors, Mrs Rachel Mitchell left in March after 4 years in the role. Rachel leaves with our best wishes and thanks.

We welcomed Miss Rebecca Silliker as Clerk to Governors with effect from June 2015.

Mr Chris Mantle sadly passed away in June. He had been a governor since September 2006 and Chair of Governors for 4 years. He made a valuable contribution to the school and will be greatly missed by the governing body.

You will have read in the press that Bedford Borough Council is taking a fresh look at the structure of the education within Bedford and Kempston. Please be reassured Camestone Governors are carefully considering all the options available and the impact on the school and local community. We are working closely with other local schools and Bedford Borough to develop a creative solution to benefit the families of Kempston. We will communicate information to you as soon as we are able.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to all the parents who completed our parental questionnaire at the sports days. Attached is an analysis of your responses. The governing body will now look at this in detail, and also review the comments made, to inform future decisions. Thank you.

YEAR 4 LEAVERS

Local schools have been working together to improve the transition arrangements for pupils this year. Some key changes:

Daubeney Academy staff have made a number of visits to meet the children in Year 4.

There have been more joint activities for the pupils both at Camestone and at middle school.

We would like to wish our Year 4 leavers the very best and hope they continue to build upon their successes and achievements.

Finally we wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Parent Questionnaire Results - 146 responses received

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Total Strongly Agree + Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Everyone is made to feel welcome at the school	69%	30%	99%	1%		
2. I would find it easy to approach the school with questions or problems to do with my child(ren)s progress	69%	30%	99%	1%		
3. The school keeps me well informed about my child(ren)s progress	51%	39%	90%	8%	2%	
4. The school enables my child(ren) to achieve a good standard of work	58%	39%	97%	3%		
5. I am satisfied with the work that my child(ren) is/are expected to do at home	45%	41%	86%	9%	5%	
6. The school gives me a clear indication of what is taught	42%	41%	83%	14%	3%	
7. The school's values and attitudes have a positive effect on my child(ren)	59%	36%	95%	4%	1%	
8. The school achieves high standards of good behaviour	51%	41%	92%	6%	1%	
9. Parents are kept well informed about school activities	57%	38%	95%	3%	2%	1%
10. Parents are encouraged to play an active part in the life of the school	57%	34%	91%	6%	3%	
11. My child(ren) like(s) school	68%	29%	97%	1%	2%	

Thank you for all your responses and comments.