



CLIFFORD ROAD GOVERNING BODY

Autumn Term 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

It has now been a year since our OFSTED Inspection and during this term our progress against those areas identified for improvement has been assessed by our School Advisor from Suffolk County Council. Overall, our Advisor is pleased with the progress made since the Inspection and was particularly impressed with the new outdoor area for Foundation Stage. For the first time at Clifford Road, our Foundation Stage children have the opportunity to have outdoor structured learning throughout the day. It is fantastic to see children learning outside under our new canopy. What also makes this extra special is the link with the nursery, allowing both classes to work together and provide an excellent transition.

Good progress has also been made in Special Education Needs with new early identification arrangements put in place alongside new techniques for working with children. Progress has also been made against the action to improve consistency in the quality of teaching with improved monitoring in place and the introduction of a new 'creative curriculum' after Christmas. We will be introducing a topic based approach to learning across the School. For example, in the Spring Term, Year 6 will study World War 2 and in the Summer Term they will study the 1960s! A long term topic based plan has been produced and a separate letter will be sent to inform you of the topics that your children will be studying in the Spring Term.

The Governing Body met at the end of November and, as well as considering progress made since the OFSTED Inspection, approved the new School Improvement Plan. Governors and Staff were disappointed by the results achieved by the School in Summer 2009 and a number of actions have been included in the School Improvement Plan to restate the commitment to ensure that all year groups across the School make sufficient progress every year. This is a shared commitment across Staff and Governors and sits alongside a number of other actions aimed at ensuring Clifford Road continues to make the progress it has made in the past 12 months.

Alongside the School Improvement Plan, the Governing Body also received a report from the Headteacher which included the following items.

After working closely with the Parents' council and Suffolk County Catering, we have decided to no longer run a tuck shop at break times. As you may know, the School has recently obtained 'Healthy Schools' status and we have closely monitored snacks being brought by children at play times, finding an increasing number of crisps/ chocolate bars. The school and Parents' Council felt we needed to send a message about healthy eating. Therefore we have decided only fruit should be eaten at playtimes

Visit the Clifford Road website at www.cliffordroadschool.org.uk

Once again thanks to the efforts of the Parents' Council, we now have safety barriers in Tennyson Road. From our observations these are proving to be highly effective and we will be exploring the possibility of a similar proposal in Woodville Road.

With the help of Colbaynes Media College in Harwich and Life Channel TV, we have produced a drama documentary about our Air Raid Shelter, involving pupils past and present from Clifford Road. The film was produced to enable our children to really understand what it was like to be at Clifford Road during the Second World War. The fourteen minute film has been a superb success and will be shown nationally on the Life Channel network. With the help of this film and contributions on BBC Radio Suffolk, we hope to continue to promote this wonderful resource. Over the last two weekend openings we had 600 visitors.

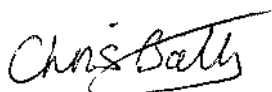
The Governing Body also considered arrangements for our annual Year 6 trip as part of a wider consultation. We have, for many years, travelled to Northern France where the children have taken part in various activities such as abseiling and canoeing. However, we have been looking at the value for money of such a trip and compared it to trips from other schools in Ipswich. This has revealed that the trip to France is high, currently £380, and a great deal of time is lost travelling. Meetings have been held with the Parents Council and the trip has been discussed with the children in Years 4, 5 and 6. The Governing Body agreed that we would like to provide a trip that offers value for money, allows as many children as possible to participate and focuses on the elements of a school trip which the children enjoy most. A decision will be made early in the New Year and this will come into effect for children currently in Year 5.

And finally, the Headteacher was also very proud to point out that after 18 months in the job, Clifford Road had its first football victory, a 2-0 win against The Oaks Primary.

As well as hearing from the Headteacher, Governors received reports from various committees including a positive report about the budget. As we reported in Spring, the 2009/2010 budget is very tight, but through good management, we continue to be on track. We also heard about new arrangements in place to strengthen child safeguarding. This is an important responsibility with a number of new requirements, such as further coverage of Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks, and the School takes this responsibility extremely seriously.

We hope you have found this summary useful. Should you have any questions about the work of the Governing Body or any observations that you wish to share, please do not hesitate to contact us at the following e-mail address (chris@bally3.fsnet.co.uk) or through the school.

Best wishes and have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,



Chris Bally
Chair of Governors

Steve Wood
Headteacher