

**BOLNEY C.E.P. SCHOOL**

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March 2018

**Governor newsletter**

In like a Lion and out like a Lamb. Old folklore tells us that March is typically an unsettled month, but hints at the hope of better times to come. The recent weather system that has been nicknamed the 'beast from the east' has certainly been as fierce as a lion. However each time I hear the phrase 'beast from the east' I can't help thinking it sounds more like a boxer from one of the Rocky films than a weather pattern. Let's hope the end of March is more like a 'rumble in the jungle' with a warmer feel.

During extreme weather events governors, alongside senior leaders, make the decisions whether to keep the school open or not. Of course we always want to keep the school open, but we have to consider whether it’s safe to do so. We have a responsibility and duty of care for all pupils and staff in the school, this includes ensuring people can safely travel to and from the site. Snow is notoriously difficult to predict, so judgement calls have to be made.

We are grateful to our staff who made every effort to get into school, some having to travel for several hours to get to Bolney through tricky conditions, meaning we could keep the school open. The compromise of finishing slightly earlier allowing everyone to get home safe meant Bolney was open every day.

We are also grateful to all of you for your patience and understanding during this period. Every effort was made to keep you informed of whether we were open or not, which is not always easy when conditions change rapidly.

We have been very conscious of the difficult week the village has had with water issues, and we would like to thank you for your understanding over the recent closures.

I have been heartened to hear reports in the news of heroism and kindness by people helping others during the cold weather. Acts which demonstrate and model the values we talk about so much in school. It reminds us that as adults we should be attempting to model these values constantly to the young people around us. Not just at times of extreme weather, but how we conduct ourselves and interact with one another at all times.

Another opportunity for us to model our values is through the use of the car park. We appreciate your co-operation with parking away from the school and walking in. This has led to less congestion and a safer environment for the children.

As always governors have been actively monitoring school development and ensuring we have the best provision possible. We have recently discussed uniform, and in particular wearable technology (Fitbits/ iwatches etc). After a great deal of thought and discussion it has been decided that wearable technology will not be permitted in school. The main reasons for this are that they can be a distraction from learning, plus the fact that no form of jewelry is allowed to be worn during PE for safety reasons. We also feel it's important to keep our uniform inclusive and accessible to all, ensuring no one feels under pressure to keep up with recent trends.

During recent visits I have, once again, been amazed and humbled by the diverse experiences and learning going on, created by our talented and dedicated staff along with excellent behaviour and positive attitude of all our pupils. The school is flourishing, in large part due to the fantastic support we get from all the families connected with it, which is wonderful. If you have any questions for the governors please contact us either in person or through the governor email. governors@bolneyprimary.school

With very best wishes,

Peter Sutton

Chair of Governors.