

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

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**Headteacher: Mrs Lorraine Kenny, BEd Hons, NPQH**

**Governor newsletter Dec 2017.**

Is there a busier time of year? It's all shopping, wrapping, decorating, peeling, stuffing, cooking, eating, drinking, giving and unwrapping. Then there’s nativities, carol services, parties and pantos. Leaving washing up, clearing away, recycling, returning unwanted presents and thank-yous to write. We often go back to work in the new year for a rest!

Recently I asked a group of youngsters, who was the busiest person they knew? A few suggested parents, others nurses and midwives, some voted for Father Christmas and one or two said God. I'd like to nominate teachers. You could easily take the above list and use it as a narrative for a typical day in school. Of course that's just during the hours of 8:50am - 3:10pm. It says nothing of the planning that makes it all happen. "It's all part of the job," I hear you say. Well, in part of course it is, however there is a lot to school life that teachers and support staff do that is not. Preparing for nativities, carol concerts, sporting events and plays. Finding places for visits, researching topics and creating interesting and engaging learning spaces. All these things often happen outside the normal working hours and much of this creates the overall experience and character of our school.

As Governors, we are aware that parents and carers often want to know more about what happens in school. Much is talked about the importance of the 'golden triangle' of school, pupil and home. To assist with this Mrs Kenny pens newsletters and staff keep the website up to date with useful information.

This term each class teacher arranged ‘meet the teacher’ sessions for parents and carers to come into school and learn more about what is going on. An opportunity to hear plans for the year, understand how home learning will be set out, and ask questions. In addition to this Mrs Kenny and class teachers presented on curriculum expectations for each year group. In Key Stage 1 these sessions were attended by 24% of families and Key Stage 2 38%. These were ideal opportunities to get a good understanding of what your child/ren would be doing this year and where you at home could help. A lot of work went into the preparation of these sessions and the feedback from those that did attend was very positive.

This is a good example of the ‘over and above’ things our teachers do to make Bolney school work for you and your children. A big thank you to all our staff for putting these sessions on and everything else they do throughout the year.

Talking of busy people, the Governors, who are all volunteers, have been active this term. Monitoring budgets, reviewing headline pupil performance data, helping to develop school improvement plans, discussing building projects, along with amending policies for all aspects of the school life and overseeing staff performance management procedures. All of this is done with the aim of supporting our staff and working together to drive improvement in the provision we offer. If you would like to be involved speak to any of the team and we can tell you more.

My thanks to all on the Governing board, often it is not easy fitting meetings and visits around work and home commitments but their contribution is invaluable to the effective running of the school.

Another group who offer great support are the Friends of Bolney School. Their fund raising creates opportunities to enrich the life of pupils. The Governors wish to thank all involved with the Friends of Bolney School, for their hard work and contribution to wider school life with the events they organise.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas break. Also urge you to take some time in all the madness of the season, to reflect on the central message of the season. That Jesus, our Lord and Creator came to live among us, as a humbled baby and that he still lives among us today, evidence of this is visible every day in Bolney School.

With very best wishes,

Peter Sutton.

Chair of Governors.