

# Brize Norton Primary School



We **SHINE** for ourselves and others

**Striving, Helping, Inspiring, Nurturing, Excelling**

Station Road, Brize Norton, OXON, OX18 3PL

Headteacher: Mrs R. Jones

Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you so much for participation in the parent voice last week. The governors and I were really pleased with the level of engagement; we had 67 responses which is the school's highest take up in a while so thank you. Your views are really important to us, not only in helping us to grow and develop but also to help aid us with improving the communication of our work. The overall picture was a really positive one with 91% of respondents feeling the school is on a positive journey of growth and development this year. I wanted to take this opportunity to not only feedback the outcomes of the parent voice but also outline the school's priorities this year and report on our journey so far.

As with all schools, the leadership team continually self-evaluate against the Ofsted criteria to identify what we do well and what we need to improve. As you are aware, last year was a difficult time for the school with a change in leadership as well as high staff turnover. Since September, a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes to ensure systems and processes for the school are in place, recruiting the wider teaching team as well as laying the foundations of our 3 core whole school improvement priorities: phonics, inclusion and the wider curriculum. As the year has progressed, these foundations have been built on and strengthened as we have continued to implement our intentions.

## Wider Curriculum

Since September, we have been reviewing the whole school wider curriculum provision here at Brize Norton Primary. The New Ofsted framework, which has come in since the school's last inspection, has introduced a spotlight focus on the 'quality of education'. There is an emphasis on all schools providing a broad and balanced curriculum and not just a focus on the core subjects. As our school's curriculum is based on a 3 year cycle, we have worked hard to ensure that every curriculum subject is planned for *progressively* across and within the 3 year cycle and has equal priority within our timetabled curriculum. *This can now be found on the school website.* Some of these subjects feature as focus days to ensure the depth of coverage and all have priority within our provision. It was pleasing from the parent voice that a recognition of subjects such as 'DT' (Design and Technology) being evident once again within the curriculum.

Through the review of the curriculum, we have built on what already existed as well as implemented new schemes which are founded on solid research. Science, RE (Religious Education), PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Education), Computing, French and Music are all new this year which the staff have embraced. We have started to enrich these subjects as well as others with events such as BIG Science Week, and we have plans to continue to do this in the coming years as our curriculum grows and develops. It is important we do this from a solid foundation. We are continually reviewing our newly implemented wider curriculum and monitoring



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for impact as well as to see if it matches our intention. This takes time and will continue to remain a focus for us this year and into next. It was pleasing to see that 91% of parents felt there was a good range of subjects available. Next term we are introducing a 'new look' medium term plan for each class which we will email home as well as put on the website. We hope this helps support your understanding of your children's learning across the curriculum.

Our commitment to Forest School for all year groups remains and our passion for outdoor learning is ever growing as we want to further develop our curriculum with more outdoor learning opportunities as well as enriching 'fun' experiences such as visits. This again will form part of our curriculum development as we move on in our journey.

## Phonics & Reading

Along with the review of the wider curriculum, we have introduced a new systematic, synthetic phonics scheme: Rocket Phonics. This is an essential requirement for all schools. This is proving very successful with a positive impact on our children's learning. As you know, reading is a vital skill for children to master as well as enjoy. As well as ensuring success with our early readers, we have also introduced a new reading curriculum across the whole school. As with anything new, training is required to ensure the quality of delivery; the staff have undergone a breadth of training to ensure that the implementation of both Phonics and Reading is successful and remains under constant review by our Early Reading and Phonics lead and leadership team.

## Inclusion

A huge body of work has happened behind the scenes with regards to inclusion, our inclusive practice and supporting those children with SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability). As with all schools, a percentage of our school community are children who have specific learning needs which present in a variety of ways. The team have received a vast amount of training with regards to special needs and how we can ensure all children's needs are met holistically and inclusively within our classrooms. We have welcomed many specialists in the field into our classes and our school to help us support individuals as well as look at our classroom environments and our provision as a whole. We are on a positive journey and the feedback from consultants and the children support this. Parent voice also supports this with the vast majority of parents sharing the view that the school is currently providing their children who have SEN with what they need to succeed. Every child, with SEN or without, are unique; we will always be striving to ensure all children's needs are met.

## Other points

- Communication – 80% of parents feel that communication is effective. Some feedback expressed that there were too many methods of communication. Just to clarify our intentions, all whole school main/new correspondence from the school will continue to come out in the form of email, reminders or prompts may then be sent out via text. Class Dojo will continue to be your main link to your class teachers. We will continue to develop



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the use of this platform for teachers to share their updates with you in the form of photographs as well as general reminders direct from the class teacher. We are also currently developing the 'News and Events' page on the website to share photos more widely.

- Attainment and Progress – this parent's evening, you should have received a document which clearly states your child's attainment and progress to date within the core subjects. We hope this provides clarity for you as parents with regards to your child's academic attainment. This will continue going forward, if received well. Do let us know your thoughts.
- We are pleased the after school provision has been received well. After school clubs are always under review. Please do come and speak to a member of the team if you have a request for a specific club or can make a recommendation of a provider.
- More 'fun' experience days were also voiced which had been seen here at the school previously, such as Discos and BBQs. These are events we are hoping to restart once again through the Friends of the school; however, they are desperately in need of more support and recruits in order to facilitate these events – please do get in touch if you would like to help as it would be such a shame for the committee to dissolve and these events to be lost altogether.

So what's next for Brize.... This year we are continuing to focus on our 3 core priorities as they still remain a focus and in their early, and varying, stages of implementation. However, after the Easter break we are also beginning our NEW OPAL journey. OPAL stands for Outdoor Play and Learning. We are embarking on an 18 month strategic journey to rejuvenate plays times and what this has to offer our children. Watch this space as more information will follow in the coming Summer Term.

Once again, many thanks for all your responses. We have taken on board all that was shared. Thank you for your support and for the recognition of the journey we have been on, and are still on as a school as well as thank you to those constructive comments which have raised awareness for consideration, we will discuss them as part of our leadership and governance meetings going forward.

Kind regards,

Mrs R. Jones  
Headteacher



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