

Hambleton C of E Primary School



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News and Information

Reflections on the first half term of the year

I thought it may be informative to write and provide you all with my first evidenced impressions of your children's school. I have to say that I am very impressed; the children are keen to learn and come to school with open and positive attitudes to their schooling. Historical outcomes for the children have been at least good and the quality of teaching is high. Governors support and guide the school well and undertake their duties very effectively. There are also many opportunities to learn beyond the classroom and participate in out of school clubs. Finally, and most importantly, the happy and caring nature of the school is evident in every aspect of school life. I am delighted to serve you all as Headteacher – we have a school to be proud of.

That said we will not rest on our laurels! Every year governors require the staff team to produce a school development plan; I will briefly outline the key aspects of this document to give an insight in to our plans for moving the school on to even greater heights.

- **Establish the principles of Deep Learning throughout school and a Growth Mind Set culture.** This will help the children ask and answer rigorous questions and really get to the bottom of any given concept, skills that will be both transferable and lifelong.
- **Enrich our school environment.** Investment is required in ICT and outdoor play equipment to maximise learning opportunities in school.
- **Be fully prepared for SIAMS inspection.** As a Church of England School we are subject to a separate inspection which is due in the near future. We need to ensure that our Christian values shine out when we are inspected as much as they do during the everyday life of our school.
- **Undertake a full curriculum and assessment review.** As you may well be aware, the new National Curriculum was fully introduced in September and old National Curriculum levels were scrapped. We need to ensure that our curriculum and



assessment systems serve the children as well as they can. Our curriculum in particular should be full of opportunity, engaging and reflect the unique nature of Hambleton School and its place in our community, as well as the wider world.

I hope you find this information useful – please do make an appointment to see me should you have any questions about our development plans for the year.

Special Mention Assembly / Opportunities to see children at work in school

Thank you to those parents and carers who have offered feedback on the removal of the class focus element from Special Mention Assembly. There is an understanding that significant curriculum time was lost - sometimes as much as an hour, I believe - and that you understand why the changes have been made. Some parents have also added that they miss the chance to regularly see the children at work in school. I fully understand this sentiment. Therefore, we are considering ways to enable parents and carers to come in to school and be even more involved in their children's learning. I will let you know when these plans are firmed up. General collective worship plans in school are also under review at present – we will consult on possible changes should we have any proposals for alterations in due course. However, things will remain as they are certainly until Christmas, and quite probably for the remainder of the academic year.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID BARBER
HEADTEACHER

