

Beckley C of E Primary School

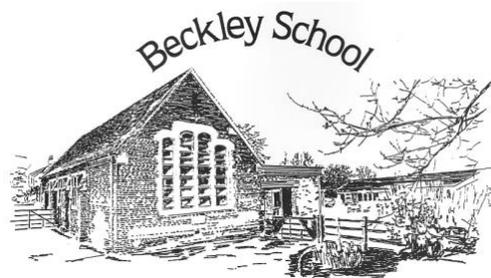
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Thursday 26th July 2018

Dear parents and carers

As another school year comes to an end, we wanted to take the opportunity to share with you some of the work the Beckley governing body has been engaged in over the year.

One of our priorities has been to monitor how the new class structure has bedded in, and what impact it has had. We have been pleased with how quickly both staff and pupils adapted to the new structure. Teachers and teaching assistants have worked together effectively to plan children's learning, and children have made good progress in all classes. We will continue to keep a close eye on this as we move into the second year of working in this way.

We also closely monitor the academic attainment of children through the year. This year we were particularly keen to ensure that children's skills in phonics, measured by a national screening check at the end of Year 1, were as strong as they possibly could be. We are delighted that 100% of this year's Year 1 children met the expected standard in the phonics check. This impressive result should ensure all children are well placed to do well in their reading in future years.

You can find the headline data for children's attainment in this year's Key Stage 1 and 2 assessments (commonly known as SATs) on the Beckley School website, here <https://beckleyschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/SATs-Results-and-Assessment-Information-2018.pdf>. In summary, at both key stages, the percentage of children reaching the expected standard was broadly in line with the national average, and the percentage achieving a higher standard was significantly above the national average.

We're keen to ensure that the children at Beckley not only excel academically, but also have the opportunity to grow their skills and confidence in other important areas. We were struck by some recent research which found that, across the UK, one in three primary school children hasn't learned to ride a bike, and almost half had never climbed a tree - both things that are actively encouraged at Beckley! Other opportunities that our children have had this year include taking part in a wide range of sporting events, raising money and awareness for a variety of good causes, music and drama performances, gardening, science fairs and our wonderful May Day celebration.

One of the key responsibilities of the governing body is to ensure our school is not only doing as well as possible for our current pupils, but is also well positioned to continue to thrive in the future. As you know, the Beckley governors decided this year, after much discussion and research, to pursue the idea of becoming an academy and joining the River Learning Trust. Many thanks to all of you who shared your thoughts with us as part of the recent consultation process. At our final meeting of the year, we voted to formally apply to join RLT, and we anticipate joining the trust early in 2019. We're excited about the support and challenge that being part of a high-performing multi-academy trust will bring, and we look forward to sharing more details about this with parents next year.

We'd like to end by thanking all the staff at Beckley for the wonderful job they do. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated, caring, professional group of people looking after the education and welfare of the children here at Beckley. We hope they - and you - have a fantastic summer. Long may the sunshine continue!

With all best wishes
The Beckley School governors