



Corvedale CE Primary School & Nursery

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This term has proved to be a very busy one following the announcement at the start of term of Mr Brough's retirement at the end of the summer term. The Governors, as I said in my letter of the 15th January, are sad to lose Mr Brough's services but respect his decision to retire. He will go with our best wishes and sincere thanks for the job he has done over the last nine years in the school. The long process which started in January finally came to a conclusion with the interviews held on the 14th March for a new Headteacher. We had 3 strong candidates and again, as outlined to you, they had quite a demanding series of tasks to complete. The process lasted over 8 hours but at the end the Governors, Local Authority and Diocesan representatives unanimously chose to appoint Mr Neil Davda as our next Headteacher. Mr Davda is an existing Headteacher in a school in Shrewsbury but was attracted to our school by our SENCO who also worked in his school and told him all about Corvedale. He was bowled over by the school on his pre-interview visit and cannot wait to start in September. He is in his thirties and presents as a very dynamic, well qualified and enthusiastic leader. We will try to arrange an opportunity for parents to meet him next term.

Work is continuing on the play area project with hopefully the fencing alterations completed during the Easter holidays. At present we are still investigating the most cost-effective surface to lay. It maybe that, if we want a hardcore foundation to go under the membrane and rubber mulch proposed, we may need to call on volunteers to do this task due to the cost involved incorporating it in the overall pricing. We also hope to add one more piece of equipment to the area. Hopefully it will all be completed before the end of the summer term enabling children to access it during the school holidays.

We are still awaiting the arrival of Ofsted which we had expected this term. They did ring on Monday 4th March to notify us of an inspection, but it had to be deferred due to personal circumstances within the staff. We fully expect another call after Easter. Hopefully the positive Key Stage 1 & 2 results we've had and the good comments from outside agencies, along with your very positive Parent Questionnaire comments and Pupil Survey comments will stand us in good stead. Your comments on Parent voice when Ofsted do come will be **very important** so please do respond when asked to as you did in your Parent Questionnaire survey and last Ofsted visit.

As Governors we have been joined by Richard Griffiths as our new Parent Governor. Richard has joined the Resources Committee. As parents you can also help us to grow the school's numbers by wherever possible promoting the school to your friends and colleagues especially on social media. This is already paying off with the healthy growth in nursery numbers we are experiencing. They are vital to the school's future. I would also like to reinforce Mr Brough's comments in the newsletter of 11th March regarding illness over the last couple of months which has had quite an impact on students' attendance at school. It is vitally important that children come to school every day unless they are too poorly to attend, as even small amounts of non-attendance results in children missing out on crucial learning and progress at school. Again, we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Having just attended the Easter Service at St Peter's I would like to say what a brilliant event it was. The children's singing was superb, and all involved need congratulating on it.

On a personal note I would like to thank the Governors for the unstinting work they've put in, especially during the new Headship process, and say thank you for the continued work of Corvedale School Association (CSA) and to the Millichope Foundation in providing much needed extra financial support. It goes without saying that the work and dedication of all the school staff is really appreciated. It was commented on by all the interview candidates, who all responded very positively about the school and the lovely atmosphere within it.

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body.