



Blewbury Endowed C of E Primary School

Westbrook Street, Blewbury, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 9QB

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Interim Headteacher

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Chair of Interim Executive Board

Kevin Moyes

November 2019

Dear Parents, Families, and Community Members,

We thought we'd drop you all a line, to keep you fully up to date with how Blewbury Primary School is progressing. Just in case you've not been aware, or have forgotten, the school currently has what's called an Interim Executive Board – or an IEB to its friends – to help drive the change the school needs following its OFSTED report last spring. Think of the IEB as being like a streamlined governing board. Anyhow, we promised to keep you abreast of the school's progress, so here's our latest update. We'll keep it short, so if you want lots of extra detail, pop onto the school's website, or contact the Head or the governors directly.

We (the IEB) met just before the half-term break, for our second meeting of the school year. A big thing for us to discuss was the feedback received after OFSTED revisited the school in September. It was what is known as a 'monitoring visit'. These will happen frequently but aren't full re-inspections. We believe that what the inspector reported back was truly encouraging, reinforcing our own belief that we've been witnessing significant improvements, chiefly that big steps have already been taken to respond to the criticisms made of the School during the full Ofsted inspection back in March. We all know that we still have a long journey together to get everything in the school exactly as we would like it to be, but just a few months into the rebuilding exercise, we're pleased with OFSTED's latest findings overall. The less than positive things reported are all things that we were already aware of and they are all now either fixed or being fixed. For instance, if you read the inspectors letter, you might have noticed he mentioned some continuing concern about playground supervision. We've looked into this and can reassure you that this relates to the need for a tweak to the delivery of the new systems at break times, rather than any overhaul required. We have faith that the necessary adjustments are being addressed by the staff and we will continue to hold them to account.

We also want to share some good news presented to our meeting about progress pupils have made in reading, writing, and maths. In short, the recent Key Stage 2 results are in for year six... and our children achieved better levels of progress in reading and writing than similar pupils in other schools. The maths results were a bit behind that yardstick, but showed a big improvement since 2018. Unlike then, the 2019 results came in at just under the average level for those similar pupils elsewhere. This is good progress, and we, the IEB, feel that everyone should be proud that this improvement has been achieved.

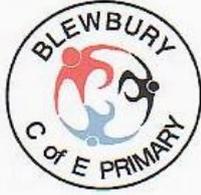
Finally, we should report that December 1st remains the target date for Blewbury School to officially become an academy as part of the Oxford Diocese Schools Trust (ODST). Although the school won't visibly change in any way at that point, this will nevertheless be a very significant moment, as we move away from the control of Oxfordshire County Council, to become the 35th in the ODST stable. We will keep you updated once that December date is finally confirmed – and hope to mark the day itself with some form of celebration. We can assure you that the IEB will continue to work tirelessly for improvement ensuring that the education children receive is of the highest quality. Once academisation takes place we will work alongside ODST until the time when it is deemed that a full governing board should be put in place.

Best wishes,
Blewbury School Interim Executive Board



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