



Box CE VC Primary School  
High Street, Box  
Corsham, Wiltshire  
SN13 8NF

Headteacher: Jo French

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Parents,

### Governors' Summer Newsletter 2019

Goodness me! The last week of term, the promise of freedom, fun in the sun and a seemingly endless summer - oh, to be to be a primary school pupil now the end of July is here!

Remember those days of yore when six weeks hols stretched out in front of us like they could never end? Well, that might still be the case for us grown-ups now for different reasons(!), but our children and staff have worked extremely hard during this academic year and their well-deserved break awaits, so a good time to have a quick re-cap of this last term's events.

I'll come to the sumptuous glories of Campfest a bit later on, but firstly let's take a quick canter through the artistic undertakings that have engaged, entertained and educated our children in recent weeks. As you'll be aware, even in the midst of prepping for SATS and carrying out their various academic tests and assessments, we'll always ensure there's plenty of room for the arts at Box Primary. As well as our usual classroom activities, June saw our older children give a fabulous woodwind concert, plus there was a terrific violin performance and a full orchestral outing for our Key Stage 2 parents to enjoy. Also, our choir sang the tale of Dick Whittington sweetly to the whole school and we even used our RE week to explore religion through art and poetry.

All of this culture and creativity climaxed in the crowning glory of Campfest - this year in its 5<sup>th</sup> magnificent iteration! This bi-annual celebration of Box barminess really is a gem of an event and our heartfelt thanks go to all those who help make it happen; of course you, the parents, and the wider school community again responded magnificently to support and encourage our children, enabling them to take part with gusto. This year £3,000 was raised and these funds really do benefit the school in terms of equipment, subsidies for outings and other extra-curricular activities but, of course, Campfest is really mainly about celebrating our children and our community in this groovy little village. Long may it continue! The catering additionally raised over £1,700 from which Yak Yeti Yak will donate to the YYY Foundation and their fundraising efforts in Nepal.

Perhaps particularly during the summer term, we're always keen to enhance our children's classroom learning with hands-on trips and excursions. Once again our Year 4s absolutely loved their residential trip to Braeside but each and every class right across the school got out and about over the course of this last term: Willow to Whatley Quarry, Sycamore to the Steam Museum in Swindon, Chestnut to Westonbirt, Ash to Roves Farm, Beech to the Wild Place in Bristol and Oak went fossil hunting in Lyme Regis. Add to this



list the fact that Ash and Willow classes were lucky enough to be able to get up close and personal with some wonderful and intriguing mini-beasts during their ZooLab experience, and you'll see the children have had some fab educational experiences of late.

Of course these outings need extra organisation and planning, so again I'd like to thank to our hard-working teachers and support staff for going the extra mile to make them happen - especially during what is, in many ways, their busiest period of the year what with moderation of assessments, analysis of data, handling reading reports and pupil progress meetings amongst other tasks - and our gratitude also, of course, must go to our parent volunteers who often accompany us on these trips. Great stuff all round.

And speaking of staff, many of you will be aware that Joe "Mr G" Goulding is off to pastures new. As an ex-Box Primary boy, we were delighted to welcome him when he arrived as a Newly Qualified Teacher 3 years ago, and we wish him well teaching the Year 6s in Batheaston. I've mentioned this previously, but again I'd like to thank and acknowledge the fact that the school has done so well to handle our maternity leaves over the past year or so; it really is quite a logistical juggling exercise which has been handled very smoothly. Thank you so much to Kate Heard, Georgia Coggan and Bethan Harper for helping keep the school so stable during this period and we're really looking forward to welcoming back Alice James, Grace Hobbs and Katie Ashton in September.

Over these past few weeks I'm sure most of you will have heard our football Lionesses roar, seen our Netball Roses going close and witnessed the extraordinary path to our recent cricketing glory, and our boys and girls at Box have certainly been doing their best to emulate their sporting idols recently. I'm delighted to report that we've been making the most of this summer of sport and our pupils have certainly got stuck in: cricket, cycling, tennis, handball and even lacrosse have been on the sporting agenda at the school this year. Plus I think we must have set some kind of record for parent participation at sports day - well, blimey, those eggs and spoons don't just race themselves, do they?!

Nearly there then, so all that remains is for me to invite you along to our leavers' service on 25<sup>th</sup> July at 2 o'clock. As always, it will be a time to look back fondly on our Years 6s' time at Box Primary and wish them all the very best of luck for their next phase in life's glorious adventure. Hope to see you there - it's a lovely way to round off the summer term for everyone, send our leavers off in style and there's always a tear or two shed at the end of another busy year; "totes emosh" as I believe they say in modern parlance.

Have a smashing summer and we'll see you in September.

With very best wishes

**Stephen Clark**  
On behalf of the Governing Body

