



Welcome to the first 2013 St Nicholas' Governors' newsletter!

A warm welcome back to St Nicholas' Primary School from everyone on the Governing Body. We all hope you had a good and restful half-term break and are looking forward to Spring (and perhaps, dare we hope, some sunshine?!)

The first part of this term's newsletter is all about the work of the Premises Development Group committee (PDG), which looks after the construction, repair and maintenance of the school's buildings, and at health and safety issues. The school is inspected annually by Oxfordshire County Council and has, for many years, been awarded an outstanding grade for its health and safety policies and procedures. The committee also looks a ways to utilise the School buildings to generate much needed funds and to foster community links.

New buildings!

As you're probably aware, the school has grown rapidly over the years, and increased pupil numbers means we have had to create new premises as well as update facilities, despite a very limited budget. Recently the school has seen major building work with the construction in two phases of:

- three new classrooms
- a new staffroom
- a new storage cupboard in the hall
- the wonderful link corridor behind the hall, linking the office area with the year 5 corridor
- Mrs Crouch's larger and improved office
- the new main entrance lobby to the school.

We would like to thank all the staff, children and, of course, parents for their hard work, patience, understanding and flexibility whilst this major work was being undertaken.

The committee also looks at the outside areas and, thanks to FOSNS's generous financial help and advice, the school has benefited from many extra facilities.

We hope this has given an insight into some of the work of the PDG committee, who they are and what they do.

The new Year 1 classrooms



Before and after photos of the staff room



Pupil Premium - What is it, and how is it spent at St Nicks?

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated by the Government to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years. Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel. Schools are entitled to spend this funding as they see fit.

St Nicholas' Primary School is committed to ensuring that all pupils are given every opportunity to fulfil their learning potential. This includes pupils who require support to make progress and close the attainment gap between them and their peers.

For 2012-13, following analysis of a range of data, the school has focussed resources on optimising accelerated learning in Literacy and Maths. For the next 2 years, through Achievement for All, the school is being supported with its efforts to strengthen provision that has the most impact on vulnerable learners. A number of additional intervention programmes have been put in place:

Every Child Counts - Every Child Counts is being used in KS1 with children who find mathematics difficult. Specially trained Numbers Count Teachers give extra, daily lessons to children who need help to catch up with their classmates.

1st Class Number - is a set of mathematics lessons, targeting pupils in KS1. A teaching assistant works with a small group of 4 children, about 3 times a week for 10 weeks. The class teacher works together with the 1st Class Number teaching assistant to plan the work, with the aim of narrowing the achievement gap.

1:1 Tuition - A qualified teacher is delivering both Literacy and Maths lessons, on a termly rotation and individual basis, in KS2. The class teachers closely liaise to set focused objectives which are intended to accelerate the learning progress of pupils.

Every Child a Reader - is an early literacy strategy for raising attainment in Key Stage 1, through a layered approach to

intervention, with Reading Recovery at the core. The overall aim is that, by the end of Key Stage 1, struggling readers and writers are able to achieve in line with age-related expectations or better.

Oxfordshire Reading Campaign - is a reading programme for Oxfordshire primary schools aimed at improving children's confidence in reading and encourage them to develop a love of books. Targeting Year 2 pupils (7 year olds) the campaign also seeks to significantly improve pupils' reading levels in Key Stage 1. Alongside the school-based programme, volunteers from the local community work with pupils on a one-to-one basis to boost reading confidence and enjoyment.