

**NANSTALLON VISION 2020: *Everything we do is focused on giving every child the best teaching, environment, experiences and opportunities regardless of background and circumstance.***



**NANSTALLON SCHOOL**



18 December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **School Improvement Update**

As we step ever closer to the end of the first full term of 2018/19 and the exciting festivities of Christmas with family and friends, I write to share reflections of the changes, improvements, challenges and successes at the school and explain the next steps.

#### **Where are we now?**

Senior School Effectiveness Partners from Cornwall Council have scrutinised the work we have undertaken since September to address the areas for improvement highlighted by the 2018 Ofsted Inspection. They identified the following improvements:

- There has been a focus and rigour to school improvement since the arrival of the new headteacher;
- All year groups have made significant progress over the autumn term;
- In the short time that the headteacher has been in post he has had a marked impact on the environment of the school; the whole school has been decluttered and the new headteacher has had a significant impact on rationalising space and ensuring that it is fit for purpose
- The new headteacher has clear plans to continue to develop the provision, which includes developing the site, improving teaching and learning and developing a culture of high expectations. He has put in place in clear plans and has formulated a self-evaluation that will serve the school well.
- School improvement is being well driven forward with support from staff. Middle leaders are being developed under the headteachers guidance and coaching, so that they are a part of the team driving school improvement forward.
- The headteacher has worked to foster good relationships with the school community, who are actively supporting the school in its development.

The children have a new dining hall; the old art store has been refurbished into a bright new space for intervention; Elm Tree Class has been fully insulated and re-clad and children in Oak Tree and Willow Tree class have their own lockers.

Over 25 parents attended the Spelling Evening. Repeats of this will be offered in the first 2 weeks back in January. The feedback was positive with parents having a clearer understanding of how we teach spelling as well as comprehensive resources to support this at home. Next term we will plan further parent workshops to support other aspects of the curriculum. Children in Y3 to 6 will also have Grammar workbooks to support homework

practice and the home/school diaries distributed in January will give clearer guidance about supporting good and regular reading habits.

It has been a privilege to experience the vibrancy in our school community including the wonderful pupil led Children in Need event, super choir performances in Bodmin and Truro, exciting Christmas events and the magical Cherry Tree class nativity.

Visitors to the school this term always comment upon the delightful way that pupil ambassadors welcome them to the classroom and share their learning. *Your children have been a joy to share the school days with this term and deserve only the best teaching, learning, environment and opportunities we can give them.*

This term we have welcomed Miss Abigail Fraser and Miss Hebe Smallcombe to our team. Miss Fraser works in the office and helps at breakfast club and during lunchtime. Miss Smallcombe supports in Early Years, breakfast club and will be your point of contact at the after school club. They are both proving to be valuable members of our school.

Our governing board is growing in strength and is actively supporting the strategic direction our school is taking. They are well supported by School Effectiveness Cornwall who monitors our work very closely and report regularly to Ofsted. It is reassuring for you to know that your children's education is supported and challenged at all levels.

### **Where next?**

In January we begin our daily offer of after-school care. The alternative sports club will also continue on a Thursday. We are committed to developing the partnership with parents further by providing more workshops and opportunities to share in your children's learning.

Miss Evans has revamped our curriculum ensuring that we have a more 'joined up' approach. From January both key stage classes will study the same topic. This means for example that trips or visitors can be planned together; children in both classes will share similar experiences and teachers can work together more closely.

We will share the curriculum goals with parents in advance of each topic so that you have the opportunity to share your knowledge; visit the library to borrow books on the subject together; start a project or maybe even plan a trip linked to the topic. The curriculum goals for each term will communicate the learning opportunities planned in school as well as associated vocabulary. You can then have the opportunity to discuss new learning and support broadening your child's knowledge of language.

The School Council will become increasingly involved in school improvement. After meeting with Chartwells, the food provider to review and plan the menu, we have arranged for them to visit St Wenn School and Pupil Council to glean new ideas. I also plan to include their voice in school governance. In January we will give Y6 children the chance to become house captains. Reading buddies will be introduced across the school so that older pupils can mentor younger ones.

Y1 and Y2 children will start a 12-week course called Sugar Smart Minis. Through a range of sports including tag rugby, dance, balanceability, mini tennis and mini fencing the children will be taught in a fun and interactive way to be Sugar Smart and will be awarded a certificate on gaining Sugar Smart Mini status. Swimming for Key Stage 2 will resume and the children will be trying out for the 2019 gala. We will also be planning the Y5/6 residential visit and a new school based Y4 summer camp night.

In 2019 there are 3 big challenges to conquer.

1. Improve the provision and environment for early years. The first few years of school are vitally important to ensure the building blocks of exploration, language, social, emotional and physical development. A person's life successes, health and emotional wellbeing have their roots in early childhood. We can expect to see children thrive throughout school if we can deliver an effective early years curriculum with a stimulating and seamless indoor and outdoor learning environment.
2. Remodelling the bungalow so that we can provide ground floor accommodation for all our classes.
3. Improving and increasing the outdoor play space for the children.

In closing, I wish all the wonderful Nanstallon School community a very happy, safe and restful Christmas and thank you sincerely for your support and trust.

Warmest regards,



Mr Stephenson  
Headteacher