



GOVERNORS' NEWS

Website: www.bernardsheathjnr.herts.sch.uk

Email: admin@bernardsheathjnr.herts.sch.uk

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Are you familiar with the school's Curriculum Map?

From September 2014, the new National Curriculum for primary schools was introduced into the classrooms. Preparation for this, however, began at BHJS some two years ago, in fact as soon as the Department for Education had published the draft new National Curriculum Framework Document.

Governors have been monitoring the progressive development of the New Curriculum throughout this period, where it has been (and continues to be) the focus of one of the key priorities in the School's Development Plan. We have been highly impressed with the professional, systematic and collaborative approach taken by the school leaders and teachers to ensure that as many of the successful elements of the old curriculum could be retained whilst also covering all the challenging requirements of the new.

If you have not done so already, you may like to take a look at BHJS's **New Curriculum 2014** on the school website: go to either the "Statutory Documents" section, or "Information for Parents".

Here you will find the school's **2014 Curriculum Map** detailing the programmes of study for the four different year groups and across all 13 curriculum areas: English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, Art, Design Technology, Computing, Physical Education, Religious Education, French, Music and PSHE&C.

Over the course of this academic year, the New Curriculum will be progressively enriched and embedded across the school and then reviewed and further developed as appropriate for 2015/16.

VACANCY for a parent governor – what does the role entail?

One of our long-standing parent governors is approaching the end of his second four-year term of office, having seen all three of his daughters progress through the Bernards Heath schools.

We are now starting the process of seeking a new parent governor and hope that several parents may be interested in finding out what this vital and rewarding role within the school entails.

A strong governing body is essential for the school and we would ask and encourage you to think if this a potential role for you, or to recommend this role to a friend who you think may be well suited.

Initial information is available in the "About the School - Governors" section on the school website, and also on the Hertfordshire Local Authority website: www.hertsdirect.org/governors

If you would like to find out more, please contact Mary Liming, Chair of Governors, via the school office by email, phone or by leaving a message in person.

Following informal discussions, the process to appoint a new parent governor will take place at the start of the summer term when candidates will be formally invited to submit their nomination.

We look forward to talking with you and welcoming a new parent onto the Governing Body team later this year.

What are your views on the school?

Later this term Governors will be launching the annual BHJS Parental Consultation. This 'open questionnaire' will give you the opportunity to let us have your views on what you would like us to do to further improve and develop the school. Parental opinions and expectations are very important to us and we look forward to receiving your comments and adding these to the wider review on priorities for school development for the coming year.

PARENT VIEW and OFSTED

In addition to the school's own questionnaire, parents are strongly encouraged to complete **Parent View** - Ofsted's 12 point online questionnaire. This is very quick and simple to access and complete. Simply click on the "Statutory Document Information" from the home page of the school website.

This is one of the pieces of information consulted by Ofsted prior to an inspection. As BHJS has not been inspected since December 2009, the school is expecting a visit from Ofsted Inspectors imminently. It would, therefore, be greatly appreciated if you could spare just a few minutes to give your views. Thank you.

How is your child doing?

In recent years, BHJS has developed very robust and effective systems for assessing children's progress and reporting this to parents. In response to the Department for Education's ongoing reforms to the national curriculum, this is currently being reviewed. The DfE no longer considers that the current system of 'levels' (e.g. 3a, 4b, etc) to report children's attainment and progress reflects the broader expectations and pitch of the New Curriculum. All schools are being asked to develop their own specific approach to assessing and reporting progress in a way which is both clear and informative for parents and will help and encourage children to achieve to their full potential.

As with the thorough and progressive preparation for the New Curriculum, BHJS is already planning how best to introduce and implement the new assessment requirements. New national and county resources, alongside the school's current highly effective approach to assessment, will form the basis for trialling a new system at BHJS over the coming months, with the view to full implementation by the end of this academic year.

This is very much a transitional year, with the current year 6 pupils sitting the final old-style SATS papers this coming May. The current 'levels' system will still be used to report their progress and attainment. A new style of national test is being developed for summer 2016 for which the new assessment system will be used.

The school will undertake to keep parents clearly informed of the new reporting system as this is progressively developed, trialled, reviewed and implemented.

The School Website: a wealth of useful information for parents

The school website has been further reviewed and developed recently to make it a highly useful resources and reference tool for parents. Alongside all the general information about the school, there is easy access to the archived Schoolcomms section for all letters and newsletters sent out to parents, current information on clubs, sporting activities and for the individual classes. There are also useful links to policies, school performance, Ofsted and much much more. A regular visit to the website: www.bernardsheathjnr.herts.sch.uk will ensure that you are up to date with everything going on at the school.