



Dear Parish Council,

Staffing - The school will have 71 children on roll this summer with the possibility of 79 children in September. We have new children arriving after the Easter break and a good intake in Reception in September. As a result we are presently looking at recruiting a full time teacher in Lime Class for a Year R/Year 1 Class.

There have been some staff changes with a new teaching assistant in Lime Class. We saw Mrs Fuell leave in the autumn term and Mrs Bonnett arrive in the spring. Sadly we will be losing some TA support in the older year groups due to budget constraints.

We are very grateful to the various volunteers who support our school, in the classroom, on trips, and Mrs Barbara Rawlings has been particularly supportive as she has helped cover the long term sickness of a teaching assistant this year.

As you will have read in the press, all schools are facing some significant challenges as far as finances are concerned. We are always looking for the best deals without compromising on quality. We were very pleased to be successful in our Lottery Fund bid which has funded a new climbing wall and some exercise bikes for the children in the playground.

Maths continues to be a key focus at school and we were thrilled at the support for our very successful Maths Day with parents in February. It was inspiring to see so many mums, dads, friends and grandparents joining in and sharing the children's learning. We have rolled out a whole school mastery approach to maths based on the Singapore model. This has required an investment in resources, and we have received support with this cost from St Peter's Church and FOCSA (Friends of Cockfield School) for which we are very grateful. The impact of this new way of teaching is very positive and we have seen children speak excitedly about their learning as a result. The children's attainment and progress has improved. In fact maths is their number one favourite subject, as confirmed in a recent survey!

As a school we have been offering the children a wellbeing day once a term, when we teach the children that their mental health is as important as their physical health. We are encouraging them to be resilient, giving them strategies when things go wrong, teaching them not to give up and how to deal with their worries.

Other special days and trips have included our Harry Potter project and our trip to Harry Potter World, trips to Sudbury Gym Club, World Book Day, and trips to the local building site at Cross Green. We were recently in the press as children were visiting Bury Cathedral in March at the time of the announcement of the new Dean of Edmundsbury. Hopefully you saw the coverage in the EADT. The support from parents to raise money through fundraising events has been significant in this past year and FOCSA have made visits and visitors possible.

Breakfast and after school clubs are gaining in popularity and this service can attract new children and working parents to the school. We are very grateful to the Village Hall Committee for their support in allowing us to have additional use of the Village Hall.

