

STENBURY FEDERATION

Interim Executive Headteacher: Mr M Snow

Chair of Governors: Mrs D Barker

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Chillerton & Rookley Primary
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Godshill Primary
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Friday 18th December 2020,

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update from Stenbury Governors

On behalf of the Governors, I am writing to update you on how the current arrangements within the federation are progressing as we approach the end of term.

The feedback from both schools and families involved in the temporary arrangements has been positive. The children, who transferred from Chillerton & Rookley Pre-school and Primary to Godshill Pre-school and Primary in September, have settled well with their new peers. The additional transport arrangements have been working well.

Parents from both schools have given positive feedback on how their children are progressing, and that they are happy and settled into their new classes. Some parents who had expressed concerns regarding the larger size of Godshill School, in comparison to Chillerton, have since commented that the friendly, welcoming family ethos, that they were happy with at Chillerton, is very much in evidence at Godshill.

All pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 that have moved schools, were asked what went well and what we could do better. Overall, there has been incredibly positive feedback from children that are now attending Godshill from Chillerton & Rookley. Pupils have settled well, and their experiences have been enriched by the changes.

Pupils, did however, request more exciting outdoor resources to further compliment the outdoor space!

The arrangement with Year 6 pupils is working well. Pupils were clear that they were happy with the arrangements in place for them to be transported by bus to Godshill, in fact they quite enjoy the trip!

They are really pleased that they have made lots of new friends in Year 6 and that many of them will be going to the same secondary school. They have not experienced any problems integrating with Godshill children.

Pupils really enjoy PE and the sports, but would love to do more when COVID lets them such as competitions etc. They are happy to wear the Chillerton & Rookley uniform at Godshill, but would like the Chillerton & Rookley PE kit to be the same.

Pupils were very complimentary of their teacher and are enjoying the learning, that it is all Year 6 work.

They really liked the updated buildings and love the outside spaces, but miss the Chillerton & Rookley site. They would also like to link in with C&R when we can.

Both schools have had recent monitoring visits from the local authority.

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The two classes at Chillerton have received positive feedback on the progress the children are making. The leadership was deemed effective, and it was evident that provision across all subject areas had improved since the last monitoring visit. However, given the number of children on roll, it was noted that the school was still over staffed and that this could not be sustained into the next academic year.

Early Years provision at Godshill, which includes the pre-school, was commended, together with the well organised recently extended outdoor learning area. The quality of teaching and learning across the school is continuing to improve and leadership has strengthened at all levels. There is strong evidence to suggest that the school is on track to achieve a good outcome at its next inspection.

The staff governor reported that from the recent staff survey, morale has much improved recently and staff feel listened to and able to raise concerns safely when necessary. Governors have thanked Mr Snow and all staff for their incredible hard work and commitment in keeping our schools running effectively during the ongoing pandemic.

Governors continue to rigorously monitor the budgets of both schools in the federation.

The current deficit at Chillerton and Rookley continues to be a concern and although careful budgeting ensured the budget came in on track last academic year, this did not sufficiently repay the accumulative deficit position. There is promise of additional funding from central government next spring, however, with a continuing falling roll and ever-increasing costs it is unlikely that the current improving provision for our children can be sustained.

The current deficit at Godshill is beginning to be repaid. Again, achieving this will be dependent on future numbers on roll and continued careful budget management.

Governors will provide a further Federation update following the next LA progress visit during the Spring Term 2021.

On behalf of all Governors, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our schools and wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Diane Barker

Chair of Governors

The Stenbury Federation