



Jowitt Avenue, Kempston, Bedford,  
MK42 8NW  
Telephone: 01234 855587

E-Mail: [office@camestoneschool.co.uk](mailto:office@camestoneschool.co.uk)  
Website: [www.camestoneschool.co.uk](http://www.camestoneschool.co.uk)

Governing Body  
Autumn Term Newsletter 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

Welcome to our Autumn term newsletter. We would like to share with you some of the priorities for this year

### **The Headlines:**

- The whole school development plan for 2018-19 has been set and progress is being made towards completion.
- Pupil Attendance continues to be closely monitored.
- Progress is being made towards the Communication Friendly Schools Award.
- Year 3 – Year 6 pupils are working towards the Pegasus Award Scheme to enrich their personal development.
- Foundation Stage staff are making preparations to participate in the Unique Child Project.

### **Whole School Priorities 2018 – 2019**

Below are the priorities the school will be working towards during 2018/19:

- Continuing to improve attainment across the whole school.
- Implementation of the year 6 curriculum.
- Achieving the 'Communication Friendly Schools Award'.
- Improve the attendance of pupils who are regularly absent.
- Develop and enrich pupils' personal development through the development of a broader, richer and extended curriculum.
- Continue to enhance the progress of all groups of pupils.
- Enhance parent engagement in Foundation Stage with participation in 'The Unique Child Project'.

Governors monitor progress towards these priorities through a series of visits and meetings. Below are some extracts from governor visit reports this term:

*"The timetabling of objectives in blocks over the 3 terms had been carefully considered to ensure constant reinforcement of understanding."* Mathematics link Governor

*"Children are first taught the basic skills required to do each activity and this is then followed by more detailed and more organised participation of the sport."* PE Link Governor

*Encouraging children to read at home with their parents and carers continues to be a challenge and impacts on some children's progress in reading. Focus in school will be on encouraging children "to*

*read a variety of books in different styles, including history, geography, science, plays and poetry” – English Link Governor*

*“The children were all relaxed and happy within the classroom environment. The class were busy and behaviour was impeccable. They were polite and respectful at all times - with their peers and the adults in the room.” – Governor Visit to Decoration Day*

To support children’s learning and enrich pupils personal development a number of new initiatives are being explored and developed in school. Here are details of some of the key projects currently in progress:

### **Communications Friendly Schools Award**

Camestone School has chosen to work towards this award because we recognise the importance of supporting children’s language development as a priority. Language skills are a key indicator of success in school and early intervention and support can make a real difference to children’s outcomes. Pupils with poor language skills can be disadvantaged in all areas of the curriculum so we are committed to working towards closing this gap.

An Action Plan has been developed that focuses on supporting children who may be experiencing communication difficulties and improving their communication and language development. The plan includes

- Reviewing and developing the school and classroom environment.
- Considering the visual prompts for work and routines.
- Sharing good practice.
- Developing resources.
- Reducing barriers to learning.
- Early intervention.

### **Pegasus Award Scheme**

The Pegasus Award is intended to enhance and celebrate children’s personal development. Children have the opportunity to set themselves a target that stretches their current skills or introduces them to new experiences. This may be learning to ride a bike, swimming 50 metres, having their first camping experience etc. The children will keep a portfolio of their achievements within the 4 Key areas of: Healthy Living, Helping Others, Exploring the environment, Skills for life.

The focus of the Pegasus Award scheme further enhances our Values programme. Our curriculum across KS2 will enable the children to achieve the Award each year. Though, clubs attended and activities undertaken outside of school can also be used to meet a child’s target.

### **The Unique Child Project**

This project is focussing on the improving progress and attainment for pupils in Foundation Stage through encouraging parent involvement.

At Camestone this will involve

- Inviting parents of some Foundation pupils to participate in the project
- Sharing information about the child, such as observations at home and at school
- Supporting parents to be actively involved in their children’s education
- Working together to improve children’s progress.

This links very closely with our School Aim – ‘Exploring Learning Together’. We strongly believe working in partnership with parents is key to pupils’ development and hope that those invited to participate will find that it has a positive impact on their child.

## **Other Information**

### **Finance - Grants**

As a Governing Body we monitor all the school finances to ensure they are well managed. The Finance, Personnel and Buildings Committee looks at the budget in detail to ensure that our allocation is used efficiently and effectively. This includes money that is received in the form of a grant. We draw your attention in particular to the Pupil Premium Grant and the PE and Sports Grant.

- **Pupil Premium Grant** (full report available on the school website)

One of the main grants the school currently receives is the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) – In 2017/18 our PPG allocation was **£58,080** and this year is **£63,360**

Pupil Premium is additional funding which is allocated to provide support for children from low-income families (traditionally those eligible for free school meals) and children who have been looked after. Nationally, on average, attainment is lower in these children and therefore the funds are made available to help improve attainment for these groups. The school is required to account for the expenditure in detail and measure the impact it has had in terms of pupil progress and achievement.

It is important to understand that within school these children are not singled out or treated differently from other groups of children. Support is available to ALL children based on need, it simply comes from a different fund.

- **The PE and Sports Grant**

The government is providing additional funding of £150 million per annum to improve provision of physical education (PE) and sport in primary schools. The funding is ring-fenced and therefore can only be spent on provision of PE and sport in schools. Our Primary and Sports Grant for 2017/18 was **£18,340** and our 2018/19 allocation is **£18,910**.

As part of our conversion to Primary School the artificial grass areas, in the Foundation outdoor space and school field, were installed during the summer of 2017. Both areas were partly funded by the PE and Sports Grant. The project has provided children with continuous access to physical activity on a surface that can be used all year round. Due to the success of this, the artificial grass area on the school field will be extended during 2018/19, funded by the Sports and PE Grant.

### **Governing Body Business**

- **Governor Roles and Responsibilities** - From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017, in response to the development of Camestone as a Primary, the membership of the governing body increased to 12 members. In addition, Governors are now linked to subject areas and a programme of regular visits with subject leaders has been introduced. For a full list of Governors and their roles and responsibilities please see the school website.
- **Vacancies** - We currently have 1 'Co-opted Governor' vacancy on the Governing Body. A Co-opted Governor is appointed by the governing body usually from the wider community e.g grandparents, friends, local community groups or business.

**If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in knowing more about becoming a school governor we would be happy to have an informal discussion with you.** Please ask at the school office.

And finally...

**We would like to wish you and your families a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break**