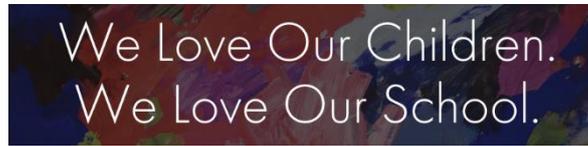




5th July 2019

Amesbury CE VC Primary School
Kitchener Road, Amesbury,
Wiltshire SP4 7AX
Tel: 01980 623009

Email: office@amesbury.wilts.sch.uk
Website: www.amesbury.wilts.sch.uk



Dear Parent/Carer

Pupil departures

I understand that there are some concerns and unrest amongst parents about children leaving Amesbury Primary School.

We know there are many reasons why parents are choosing to leave and we appreciate the letters of support we have received from many parents who are leaving due to personal circumstances. We are extremely grateful for the backing of those who are staying and who have faith in the school and want to support us on our journey. Your positive comments and support are extremely welcome.

This problem is not isolated to Amesbury CE Primary, but also to other local schools. I would like to highlight some of the many reasons to stay with us.....

WE ARE ON TRACK!



We know that we are on a journey and the school is in a much better place now. Staffing is now more settled (there will always be movement whatever school you are in), Leadership and Management, Early Years and Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare have all been judged as Good by the Local Authority and, with the collaboration of the Parent Forum, communication is much improved. We can offer single age classes, counselling and ELSA, we have a qualified Thrive assessor on site, and TAs trained

to deliver Theraplay. From September we will have a Parent Support Adviser (PSA) to help families who need extra help and extra TA support in all classes.

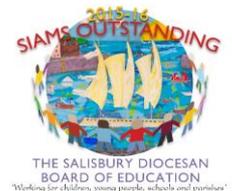
We also have a very experienced SENDCo, who has supported many children and families to ensure that those that need it, receive additional support. We have established strong working relationships with outside agencies including Behaviour Support, Speech and Language and Educational Psychologists, who now come into school regularly to assess children, offer training and advice to staff and support families.



Staff plan exciting topics and the children love our Whole School Pause Days. Sport is a strength of the school and this includes the daily teaching of PE, as well as after school clubs and Sports Week. We offer breakfast and after school clubs, and have our fantastic, unique Radio Shack! In September, we will be offering Forest School on a Friday delivered by the amazing Ms Wildman.



We now have a strong leadership team who are driving rapid progress across the school. We have Big Write and BLP (Building Learning Power) and the children love being Values Ambassadors. Our Head Boy and Girl, together with their deputies, enjoy their responsibilities and our well established School Council are extremely proactive in school.



Our fabulous, purpose built Art Studio means that children have high quality art lessons, and these will be taught by a trained and talented HLTA from September. The quality of the work produced is of a high standard and, with the variety of resources, we can offer the children a wide range of art skills. We offer a residential visit to Wales in Year 6, where the children can take part in caving, gorge walking and many other outdoor activities. Our PTA is extremely successful, organising many events for the children and their families.



Our data has improved this year and we will be able to share this with you once it is released. We also internally assess the children's reading and spelling three times a year and are able to track the children's progress and put interventions in place, when required, using Rapid Reading and other targeted intervention programmes, which are planned and monitored by our Interventions Manager. From this term, we will be using PIRA (Progress in Reading Assessment), PUMA (Progress in Understanding Mathematics Assessment) and GAPS (Progress in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Assessment) to ensure we track children's progress and prepare them for SATs at the end of key stages. It will also mean that new class teachers for September will know exactly where the children are and how to move their learning forward from day one. This all takes time to set up and embed; we are already two years into this journey. We are also looking forward to working with our new families who will be joining us in September.



Finally, for those parents who are thinking about moving their children to another school, please consider the above very carefully and maybe consider working in partnership with us to keep our wonderful school moving forward? If you want to know more about what we are doing, then please arrange for a tour/visit of the school. I would be delighted to show you around our wonderful school, share our vision and answer any questions you have.

As Headteacher, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far at Amesbury CE Primary School. The enthusiasm of my staff and the energy from our pupils has made every day different and exciting: feeling so passionately about our work here is what makes my daily long commute into school worth it. I am excited about the possibilities the changes we are making to Amesbury bring, and knowing how supportive you are as parents is truly appreciated. I look forward to continuing to spearhead the team that drives improvements here at Amesbury CE Primary School, ensuring our school is one that is an appealing provider of high quality learning experiences for parents and pupils alike.



I would not be able to do this without the ongoing support from you as parents and without my wonderful staff and dedicated governing body who are each committed to the aspirations of excellence we have for our school.

Local Authority Parent meeting

Please remember that we have Dan Neal from the LA coming in to meet with parents on **16th July at 6 pm** to update you on improvements that are happening. You will have the opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have with him.

Yours sincerely

Mrs T Hall
Headteacher

