



# Governors' Newsletter SummerTerm 2015



*It's difficult to believe that it is just over a year ago that Bedenham and Holbrook Schools federated and Tracy Potter started as the new Executive Head Teacher (EHT). Time seems to have gone really quickly and it is now almost the end of term and summer holidays are on the horizon. This newsletter seemed the ideal opportunity to let you know the outcome of a recent review of the key objectives that were set by governors for the EHT last year, so please read on as there is more information below.*

- These are the objectives in plain English:**
1. Identify collaborative opportunities for the staff to work together to improve outcomes for children;
  2. Develop effective and productive relationships with all stakeholders, especially parents and carers, and encourage them to participate in the education of the children;
  3. Create a culture of high expectations and aspirations, both academically and socially;
  4. Motivate and enable the staff to raise attainment so that children achieve above National average and are ready for the next stage of learning.

**How was the review undertaken?**

*The Leadership and Learning Partner for the Federation interviewed the following to gather evidence:*

*Senior Leadership team at Bedenham, Heads of School, parents, teaching assistants and children at Holbrook.*

**There was other documentation too:**

*A report from the EHT on improvement in achievement across both schools and scrutiny of maths books in both schools.*

**Before you turn over and read the next thrilling instalment,** the Governors of Bedenham and Holbrook would like to wish you a very happy and relaxing summer break and we hope the weather continues to be sunny and warm.



# Governors' Newsletter

## Summer Term 2015 (cont'd)



### • **And what was the outcome?**

#### • **General observations were:**

• *1. Staff groups said they had benefitted from working with their peers in the other school which had increased their knowledge, confidence and critical appraisal of their area of expertise. This has led to improvements in subjects through sharing of good practice and a wider pool of knowledge as well as finding solutions to ensure improvement. As an example of this collaboration, the achievement in Early Years improved by 10%. Children have also benefitted from working with their year groups in the other school. Initially they were a bit anxious but quickly made friends, and a small improvement has been that there is now a girls' football team!*

• 2. Parents from Holbrook felt that day to day communication was good, both from texts and letters, informing them about what children were learning, and there had been the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops to help them further support the children with their learning. Generally they felt that the EHT was doing a good job and that children were receiving a good education. Some parents also commented that they had seen some very positive relationships between staff and children at the sports day. Children and teaching assistants at Holbrook also felt that the school had improved over the last year and their comments were positive.

• *3. There has been a significant improvement in behaviour in both schools and particularly at Holbrook where there has been a great reduction in exclusions. At Bedenham there had been an increase in low level disruptive behaviour, and so the Behaviour policy was reviewed to see what was working well and what needed improvement.*

• 4. The Heads of School identified targets to ensure children reached age related expectations by the end of the year. Both schools have focussed on maths and English and achievement has been improved or sustained in both schools across all year groups. This will continue to be a focus for the next academic year.

**And finally, well done to all the staff, children and parents of both schools for making the first year such a great success!!!**