

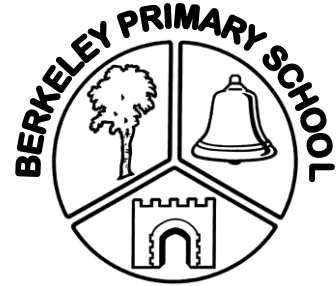
# BERKELEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> December

Dear Parents

As 2011 draws to a close, I'd like to provide you all with an update on the achievements made at Berkeley Primary School over the last year or so and give you an indication of the future plans and items included in the latest edition of the School Development Plan.

The school always seems to be a busy place, but even more so in the past few months with some noticeable alterations to the school grounds and buildings. One of the reasons for the building enhancements is to provide a safer environment for all pupils and staff. We have also looked to utilise the existing infrastructure in the most efficient way to help enhance teaching and learning throughout the school. In the recent past, we have finished the following projects:

- A new, large and well equipped kitchen (part funded by Gloucestershire CC and the catering provider Edwards & Ward) replacing the previous kitchen. The new kitchen can be used for out of school events and potentially to provide a catering service to other local schools
- A new classroom and improved outside area for Year 1, making better use of the "lighthouse" room and adjacent cupboards
- Changes to the use and delivery of ICT which enabled the previous Computer Suite to be remodeled into an updated entrance lobby, dedicated medical room, staff room and offices.
- Further developments in the dedicated outside area for the Reception class, including new fencing around the school pond, a pirate ship and fairy castle !
- Updated fencing and a parent waiting shelter which is also used for outdoor lessons and during break times
- New energy saving, eco-friendly lighting throughout the school

These new and updated facilities have already been put to good use. The Breakfast Club and After School clubs are now located in the previous Year 1 classroom and this space is also used as the School Library, Music Room and for targeted Maths groups in Key Stage 2.

Whilst the above projects have absorbed a large amount of capital funding (money that can only be spent on "one-off" projects), the costs have been reduced wherever possible by project managing and resourcing them internally. Mr. Ian Coles – the school "handyman" – deserves a special mention for all the work he has completed to a very high standard.



The School's financial situation continues to need careful monitoring. Overall funding from the Local Authority has been reduced and the amounts received are lower compared to previous years due partly to lower numbers on roll. Tough decisions regarding staffing levels were made during the last academic year to ensure ongoing sustainability whilst attempting to minimise any impact on teaching and learning.

Staff changes are inevitable in any organisation and we have welcomed some new members of staff to provide maternity (and secondment) cover and to replace others who have left to continue their careers in other schools. When the need arises, I hope that we will continue to be successful in appointing experienced and enthusiastic new staff who will significantly contribute to the development of the school.

I hope that many of you have taken the opportunity to see the changes and meet the new staff at the recent open day, class assemblies, parents evenings and other after school events. Further opportunities to visit the school and to experience first-hand what goes on will be available in the future and will be announced through the newsletters.

Looking forward, the school is entering into the next phase of its development covering the next two years. The School Development Plan (SDP) is a key document that outlines the future direction of the school and some of the target objectives. The new SDP will be issued shortly with a copy published on the school website and available to review from the school office.

The SDP incorporates the following objectives:

**Promoting positive behaviour and ensuring safety for all pupils**, including

- Training Year 6 pupils to support the Community Police Officers
- Introducing new playground playtime activities and enhancing the playground "buddy" system
- Engaging with parents and wider family groups to support family learning
- Supporting pupils and their families with individual education / action plans
- Ensuring all buildings and facilities are periodically maintained and are fit for purpose

**Enhancing the achievement of all pupils**

- Building closer links with toddler groups and playgroup to assist sustainability and streamline the transition into the Reception class
- Using appropriate assessment and monitoring methods to deliver individualised teaching and learning for all pupils
- Giving pupils the opportunity to equip themselves with skills and academic achievement for the next phase of their learning
- Developing closer links with a wide range of secondary schools and supporting families in making informed decisions regarding their child's future education

**Enriching the quality of teaching and learning**

- Creating short, medium and long term plans for learning
- Identifying opportunities to involve parents and the wider community to supplement the class teaching



- Including a global dimension across the curriculum, including work towards the International Schools Award and building positive links with other schools and countries.
- Promoting the successes of the School to parents and the wider community

### **Strengthening the leadership and management of the School**

- Actively seeking the views of pupils, parents and staff for monitoring standards and meeting needs
- Building links with other schools to share good practices
- Exploring the possibility of Academy Status and making an informed decision for the future of the School

In the coming months, the progress made towards the objectives identified in the School Development Plan will be communicated to all through the regular newsletters, the school's web site and other media.

The success of a school requires input from a range of groups particularly pupils, parents, staff, governors and the wider community. The School Development Plan helps focus on the key areas identified for the coming years. Your input and contributions over this period will help immensely and will be an important factor in providing the best education possible for all children at the School.

On behalf of the School Staff and Governors, I'd like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully

Phil Curtis  
On behalf of Berkeley Primary School's Governing Body

