



# Dorset Road Infant School Newsletter

Issue No: 3

11<sup>th</sup> November 2016

As part of the schools' ongoing work to develop learning opportunities for our children, Mrs Cernuto has introduced some new initiatives in Reception class. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is play based so children can explore and learn in their preferred style. This builds their confidence and self-esteem so they grow into resilient learners, able to acknowledge their successes and bounce back after their difficulties.

Providing sensory and explorative play opportunities is key to this EYFS learning. Some examples of the sensory and explorative activities in Reception this term are being developed in the outside area. For example, a mud kitchen has been introduced. In the mud kitchen, children play imaginary cooking games, exploring texture and consistency and using kitchen utensils to 'cook' with mud! Children have contributed to the development of a small herb garden, digging and planting for themselves. Working on these outside activities helps children's early understanding of science and maths as well as their ability to connect with nature. These improvements in EYFS are helping our children to develop creativity and communication skills

Mrs J Brinkley



This half term has got off to a flying start. Years 1 and 2 have enjoyed a Dance Workshop, the school council have visited Bromley council chambers (pictures overleaf!) and met the Mayor, our parents' evenings were very well attended. Each class has started a new topic, year 2's space day was particularly impressive. We have lots more to pack in to November, before we start Christmas activities – Year 1 will be visiting the British Wildlife centre, we have a book fair, an Open day for prospective parents and an Olympic athlete coming to school to run a sponsored fitness event.

We are very pleased to welcome two new faces to our staff. Mrs Katie Brennan is our new midday supervisor and Emma Roberts is our new cook.

### Thank you to NISA

Our local shop Nisa in Mottingham Road has donated £1484.35 to the school, as part of their "Making a Difference Locally" programme. We are very grateful and plan to buy some sensory playground equipment and new books. You will see our children saying "Thank you" on a poster in Nisa's window.



### Reminder re safe parking and dropping off

Please do not park on the zigzags in either Dorset Road or Portland Road when dropping off or collecting your children. The zigzags are there for our children's and parents' safety. Thank you.

The new arrangement for coming in to school via the front gate and hall is working well. Please speak to Mrs Linford or Mrs Oke at the gate if you need to pass any messages on to the teachers. If you need to speak to a teacher directly, please phone the school to make a mutually convenient appointment.

Please can I remind parents not to bring dogs in to the school playground. Thank you.



### Message from Bernie Hawes, Chair of Governors

You are probably aware that Mottingham Residents Association (MRA) are proposing to seek permission for a new free school and have suggested it could be built on Foxes Field at some future date. This proposal will need to be approved by the Secretary of State for Education on advice received from the Regional Schools Commissioner. The Spring Partnership Trust has already been advised by the Regional Schools Commissioner and by Bromley LA that there is no requirement for further primary school places in the vicinity of Mottingham village and that the relationship between Dorset Road and Castlecombe fulfils very effectively the current need and is fully supported. Both Castlecombe and Dorset Road are good schools and will continue to develop as members of a strong multi academy trust. In the event that any proposal was approved, the process will take some time and it is by no means certain that any new school would be built in the locality suggested.

As you are aware Dorset Road joined the Spring Partnership Trust this September following Bromley Council's decision to follow the academy route for all their schools. The benefits from joining this Trust will enable our pupils to achieve the best they can in all aspects of their education, fully supported by a whole school team motivated and well trained in successful methods of teaching. By joining the Trust, Dorset Road will continue to be a good school and has an assured future.

It has also been mentioned to me that some parents/carers are concerned that they will have no choice of which school their child will go to when they leave Dorset Road at the end of year 2. As a parent/carer you have the right to choose which school you would like your child to go to. This is a choice and Bromley Council Education Department and the school of your choosing will make the decision whether your wish is successful or not. Neither the Trust nor Dorset Road can influence this decision. What is certain though is that a place will be available for your child to transition to Castlecombe (a good school) from year 3 onwards.

The concerns of parents/carers are important to the Governing Body and governors are available to talk with you about these. Please let the school office know if you would like to meet with a governor.

Best wishes

Bernard Hawes, Chair of Governors

### School Council visit to the Mayor of Bromley



The four elected School Council members visited the Mayor of Bromley on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016. This was arranged by Councillor David Cartwright who is also a Governor at Dorset Road.

The children spent some time in the chambers where they learnt about 'Democracy' and the significant features on the 'Bromley Crest'. The children then met the Mayor and discussed the role and responsibilities of his job, which they really enjoyed. They spent a lot of time talking about their future aspirations, and the importance of living in a Democratic society.

The Mayor gave each of the children a special badge to remember the day.

