



GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

1999 - 00

Chairman of Governors : Councillor H Andrews
Head Teacher : Mr T J Cole

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GILFACH FARGOED PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS - SUMMER 2000

This report is a summary of steps taken by the Governing Body in discharge of its functions since the last Report to Parents in Summer Term 1999.

1. **MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

The Chairman of Governors is: Mr Harry Andrews
The Clerk of the Governors is: Mr David Hopkins - Director of
Education
The Acting Clerk of the Governors is: Mrs Michelle Parfitt

Appendix 'A' provides the list of governors of the school, by whom appointed and date of cessation of term of office.

2. **SCOPE OF BUSINESS**

(a) Number of Pupils on Roll (*as at September 1999*)

Boys - 123
Girls - 131
Total - 254

Teaching Staff

Mr T J Cole	Headteacher	
Mrs E Perkins	Deputy Headteacher	Year 2/3
Mrs M Powell		Year 5/4
Mrs J Jones		Year 6/5
Miss H Green		Year 4/3
Mrs S Davies		Year 3
Mrs T James		Year 1/2
Mrs V Davies		Reception
Mrs J Rees		Rec /Year 1
Mrs P Jones		Nursery
Miss K Perez		Violin Tuition

(b) **Allocation of responsibility points**

Nil.

(c) **Non-Teaching Staff**

Mrs P Grant	Nursery Assistant
Mrs H James	Secretary
Mr P Davies	Caretaker
Mrs L Williams	Cook
Mrs L Morgan	Assistant Cook
Mrs J Cleaton	Catering Assistant
Mrs N Evans	Catering Assistant
Mrs M Lewis	Catering Assistant
Mrs Smith	Catering Assistant
Mrs Wood	Catering assistant
Mrs F Jones	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs L Thomas	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs P Williams	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs S Williams	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs Niblett	Supervisory Assistant
Miss Williams	Supervisory Assistant

(e) **Inset/Curriculum**

The professional development of all staff is of utmost importance in the school. Annually all staff are asked to identify their training needs and whole school needs. This information is used to assist with the planning of the year's training programme. The following list indicates the range of courses staff have been involved in during the year.

Course

Enhancing pupils' writing at KS1
Monitoring and evaluating standards and quality
CD Roms and the Internet - a resource for RE
Raising standards in primary science
Using ESIS scheme of work for KS2 Art : Textiles
Using ICT in you local History S U (Merthyr)
Designing effective science lessons
The revised agreed syllabus for RE : update
Introducing pentatonic work on tuned percussion
Using ICT for geography at KS1
Raising standards & expectations in History at KS1

Mathematics for pupils with SEN in primary schools

Mathematics for pupils with SEN in primary schools

Headteacher's seminar

Oracy and literacy for early years

Management and ICT - school improvement

In-Step assessment package

Using ICT in Design and Technology at KS2

Effective subject leadership

Literacy and ICT Developing key skills

Health and Safety – Violence at Work.

Music in Education Project

New Opportunities Fund ICT Training

(f) **Curriculum**

Children are taught a broad curriculum through the study of English, Welsh, Mathematics, Science, Design Technology, Information Technology, History, Geography, Art, Music, Physical education and Religious Education. Health Education is provided mainly in the context of the science programmes of study which enable children to acquire the knowledge and understanding that is essential for healthy living. Environmental education is mostly developed through the geography programmes of study. As part of their work, pupils have several opportunities to engage in work that involves making visits within and beyond the local community. On occasions, learning activities such as working with the police and with environmental schemes led by Caerphilly Groundwork Trust and Caerphilly employees provide purposeful links with industry and the community.

Progression within subjects and across year groups is secured through schemes of work. These are working documents designed to provide practical support for teaching and learning. The schemes provide the basis for planning learning activities that are matched to pupils' different abilities, and they also indicate links with other subjects and highlight the resources needed to support teaching and learning.

All children are given opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of Wales. Welsh is taught every week and used incidentally throughout the day. An act of worship conducted in Welsh is held every week. Children also participate in Welsh folk dancing.

The school Development Plan has provided a framework from which to target certain aspects of school and curriculum development.

(g) **Special Educational Needs**

Many children have special educational needs at some time during their schooling. Some have special needs because they find learning difficult, some because of specific difficulties or impairments and others because they have high ability. The school meets the needs of these groups sometimes through the provision of additional support, through careful planning and by the teacher's support to individual or group needs. In the case of children who have difficulties, the provision is mainly made through individual action plans (IEP's) that specify learning activities which help the child to progress in small, achievable steps. Provision for children whose needs have been identified as requiring additional support will be met through the Authority. To support these pupil's in mathematics a computer has been purchased with an integrated learning package called RM Maths.

(h) **Extra-Curricular Activities (including Educational Visits)**

A range of extra-curricular activities have taken place during the year. These have included:

Drawing Club
Craft Club
Rugby
Football
Cross Country Running
Netball
Choir
Library
Recorder Club
Bays Science

Pupils have also been involved in visits to places with curriculum links and a number of presentations from outside agencies have taken place.

Cluster Rugby Training
Chris Morgan - Adviser reported to Governors
Year 6 visited Heolddu
Eco Activity Day
3 pupils attended Drama Course - Ogmore
Year 4 visited Caerleon
Indoor Athletics - CCBC
Year 6 'Crucial Crew'
Road Safety 'Tufty'
Service - St Margaret's Church
String Quartet to played in school
'Wings to Fly' - Drug awareness programme - Year 6
Cross Country Event - New Tredegar.
Visit to Castell Henllys - Year 3
Junior Sports Day
Infant Sports Day
District Sports
Cycling Proficiency Test - Year 6
Cyfarthfa Castle - Year 5
London Theatre Trip - Year 5 & 6
Blackwood - Pantomime
Imperial War Museum - Year 6
Rhondda Heritage Park - Year 1
Cwmbran Farm - Nursery
St Margaret's Church Peace Service
Netball Tournament
WRU Rugby Coaching Session
Rugby 7's

3. **SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

As a school we aim:

- to provide as wide a range of sporting activities as possible and to encourage the pupils to participate in an enthusiastic and sometimes competitive manner.
- to provide sport in such a way that the physical activities pupils take part in help them to develop an understanding of the importance of exercise in maintaining a healthy life.

Pupils have taken part in a Welsh Rugby Union coaching session. This two hour session involved the pupils in a range of activities such as ball handling, passing, tackling, supporting and positioning.

Pupils have also been involved in Netball matches with local teams.

4. **COMMUNITY LINKS**

- A theatre based learning experience to raise the awareness of the harmful effects of drugs and substance misuse - attended by Year 6.
- Cycling Proficiency.
- Road Safety Officer - 'Tufty'
- An exhibition for pupils organised by the local authority and the Police about environmental changes (Crucial Crew).

5. **PARENTS' MEETINGS OF EVENTS**

- November 8th - Parents Evening to discuss pupils' progress
- April 11th - Information on K.S.1 SATS
- April 12th - Information on K.S.2 SATS
- June 19th - Parents Evening to discuss Annual Pupil Report
- June 20th - Parents Evening to discuss Annual Pupil Report

6. **GIFTS RECEIVED**

Once again the Friends Association have financed the purchase of 1 computers.

We are always very grateful to all those who work hard to raise funds for the school.

7. **USE OF PREMISES BY ORGANISATIONS**

Nil

8. **ILLEGAL ENTRIES/VANDALISM**

There were no illegal entries during the year. 10 windows have been broken during the year.

9. **PROGRESS ON SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN / ACTION PLAN**

During the year the LEA's Numeracy Strategy has been implemented and staff have spent time familiarising themselves with the high expectations of the National Numeracy Documentation. Miss Helen Green (maths co-ordinator) attended a three day training event and the key issues resulting from this training were reported back during a closure day. Four staff attended a cluster training event in numeracy and two members of staff visited Caerphilly Schools Library to look at numeracy resources. Through the headteacher's monitoring it has become evident that pupils are responding well to the numeracy strategies involving a greater amount of oral and mental work, developing mathematical vocabulary and talking about their answers.

Two classes were involved in an action based project with using a software package called RM Maths. The purpose of the project was to determine whether pupils' attainment in maths could be raised significantly through daily sessions on the computer. The project lasted 12 weeks.

Resulting from the success of this software further copies have been purchased for other classes.

Some staff were involved in ICT training to develop this area across the curriculum. Subjects covered have included Music, Geography, History and Local Studies.

A number of meetings have taken place for K.S.2 staff looking at spelling. ACCAC optional assessment materials in English have been used covering Speaking / listening, Reading and Writing.

On February 4th an ECO-Schools Activity Day was held. This provided the time and opportunity for all classes to be involved. Areas covered included : paper recycling, energy saving measures, litter control, costing related to gas, electricity and water consumption and craft activities using waste materials.

During the year a 'SHARE' group was formed. The primary aim of the group was to develop an understanding of how parents can help their children with their learning by equipping them with the knowledge and skills to design and use some learning materials.

A Pre-school reading facility was offered during the year for all those parents with young children not yet of school age. The parents and children have an opportunity to view a wide selection of reading material and to borrow books for home reading. The group have met every Thursday from 1 – 2p.m.

10. **SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS**

Security arrangements continue to be monitored carefully and every effort is being made to provide a safe and secure environment for pupils and staff.

11. **PROGRESS IN SETTING AND MEETING TARGETS UNDER THE 'BRIGHT FUTURE' PROGRAMME**

The school is making progress in meeting annual targets. 83% of K.S.1 pupils sitting the 1999 SATS were successful in achieving level 2.

In K.S.2 63.3% achieved level 4 in Maths, English and Science in combination. This improved on the Welsh average of 58%

12. **SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2000/2001**

Term	Begins	Half Term	Ends
Autumn	Monday 04.09.00	October 23rd – 27th	Thursday 21.12.00
Spring	Monday 08.01.01	February 19th – 23rd	Friday 06.04.01
Summer	Monday 23.04.01	May 28th - June 1st	Tuesday 24.07.01

12. **PERCENTAGE OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES**

YEAR GROUP	SUMMER TERM 1999	AUTUMN TERM 1999	SPRING TERM 2000
Reception	0.4	0	0.27
Year 1	0.37	0	0
Year 2	0.83	0	0.21
Year 3	0	0.56	0.32
Year 4	0	0.91	0.3
Year 5	0	0.04	0
Year 6	0	0	0.02

13. **GRANT MAINTAINED STATUS - OPTING OUT**

As required by law, Governors considered this issue at their Spring Term Meeting and RESOLVED not to ballot parents on the question of seeking Grant Maintained Status for the school for the following reasons:

- the interest of the pupils are best served by remaining with the LEA
- we would be unable, as a Governing Body to furnish the expertise required if the school became Grant Maintained.
- the support services currently provided by the LEA would no longer be available to the school.

APPENDIX 'A'

The Governing Body of Gilfach Fargoed Primary School

(As from September 2000 there will be 3 Parent vacancies on the Governing Body. This is owing to the existing members term of office being met)

APPENDIX 'B'

The Financial Statement for Gilfach Fargoed Primary School

APPENDIX 'C'

National Curriculum Assessment Results K.S.1 and K.S.2

