



Bovey Tracey Academy: Providing the gateway to fulfil an ambitious , flourishing future

Letter from Mrs Prywata 6.6.24

Dear Families,

Our first piece of exciting news of the half term is that we are now officially Bovey Tracey Academy: Providing the gateway to fulfil an ambitious, flourishing future.

We converted on June 1st. The slight delay has been because the Trust have been seeking funding. They have managed to secure approximately £750,000 to improve our school estates. This now means we are part of a family of schools and instead of belonging to Devon County Council, we belong to LAP SW (Learning Academy Partnership SW).

We have been working with LAP since January 2024 and our school has already started a swift but carefully managed school improvement journey. More details will follow. So far, the leadership team have had the opportunity to work alongside staff from Dartington and other Trust schools as part of their professional development. I have also been working alongside Charlotte Huish, head at Dartington, as our school associate. The LAP have now taken responsibility for finance and personnel as well as premises. This has meant that each week I have been able to monitor teaching and learning in every class. We have also welcomed the Trust leadership team, CEO Tracey Cleverly and Vice CEO Emma Bone to participate in learning walks, acting as both support and challenge. For these visits we have been able to show good progress so far.

I just wanted to give a brief overview of some of the initial changes at our school linked to Teaching and Learning:

Optimal Learning Approach

This is a Trust wide approach to Teaching and Learning where we teach the children to invest more in their learning and to build on the knowledge they already have. This enables each child to then learn new knowledge and skills and link this to what they already know. I have been leading the staff through this so far.

My Plans

Miss Forrest has been writing these alongside staff and modelling the process to each teacher and then ensuring they show impact in the classes. She has also been leading on attendance and contributing to Trust wide policies. As a result, although we still have a rigorous journey ahead with

improving attendance, the structures she has put in place are already showing an impact. Children cannot learn alongside their peers and thrive if they do not attend school.

Maths Anchor Tasks

Mr Oaff, as maths lead, has been implementing an anchor task at the start of each maths lesson and has been leading all staff to do this. We have noticed a dramatic increase in participation of all children in each lesson and teachers are addressing misconceptions earlier, enabling the main part of the lesson to be accessed better by all pupils.

Whole Class Reading

Mrs Gant has led the implementation of whole class reading across Key Stage 2. This replaces our guided group structure for reading. Again, it has produced classes full of eager children, all participating. The depth of questions linked to inference are really helping to stretch the children's thinking.

Read, Write, Inc

Mrs Andrews is the lead for our new phonics approach to Early Reading. We are starting it this week. Read, Write, Inc is a structured approach and LAP have invested fully in this for us. Mrs Andrews and Mrs Newman have been instrumental in organising all of the resources and we are ready to go! Watch out on your e mails for parent updates and training! Your children are grouped according to the initial assessments of sounds and the lessons will be an hour each day. If your child is higher up the school in Key Stage 2 and they are missing some phonics sounds, they will either be grouped together and do Read, Write Inc, or they will follow our phonics for older children called 'Fresh Start'. More details will follow when the program is underway.

Early Years

We welcomed back our Early Years leader, Holly Hamblin earlier this term following her maternity leave. Holly has been working alongside her Early Years team on the outside environment and this half term will be leading them through some focused professional development around high quality interactions. She is also liaising closely with parents and pre school settings along with Becky Forrest to ensure a seamless transition.

As well as the investment for Read, Write, Inc, we have also just had **9 new interactive whiteboards** in our classrooms to support teaching and learning.

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So what else is changing?

Our governance structure (please see letter at the end from our co-chairs of governors).

We are moving to 9 classes from 10. This was our plan last year but at the last minute we were given extra funding to run a tenth class. Having 9 classes means that we are reorganising the class structure and so I will communicate this with you very soon in a separate letter.

As a result, two of our current teachers are leaving as they were on fixed term contracts – Nicolette Dann from Brimley class and Natasha Hornby from Hawkmoor class. We wish them well in their next steps and we thank them wholeheartedly for their investment in our children.

We welcome Bryony Wells as a new R/Y1 teacher who comes with 4 years' experience from Cranbrook.

As always in the summer term, we have a tricky time as people decide it is time to move on. This year is no different. Two long standing and well respected members of staff have decided it is time to retire.

Mrs S and Paddy have decided it is time to retire and hang up Paddy's lead. We thank Mrs S for her years of constant support and education for both children and families. Her approach to ensure all children feel safe and secure but also become independent and confident has been a true testament to her unwavering attitude to empower all children. She has a family who she wants to spend time with and so we wish her well.

Whilst all staff will continue to raise the ambition for all children, we are currently planning how our school structure will continue to support social and emotional development and children's individual needs.

Mrs Twose has also decided it is time to spend more time with her family and grandchildren especially. She has spent many years educating children at Bovey. She has been passionate in enriching children's school experiences by organising Cycling proficiency, attending residentials, school plays and continues to champion children learning to swim. We wish Alison all the best in her retirement.

Mrs Watson has already moved across to LAP and is working from their central offices. We thank her for all of her hard work and positivity with the children and staff at Bovey Tracey Primary School.

As a staff we have all been collectively worked on our vision:

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What do we mean by this?

All stakeholders have participated in creating the vision to move the school forwards. We used the questions: Who are we as a school? Why are we here and how do we live? This is set to enable all stakeholders to understand the importance of working as a community to open up opportunities to broaden the experiences of all pupils and enable an inclusive culture where all children can access learning and make progress from their starting points. When we write our Academy Improvement plan, we do so under the 4 areas below:

Stronger together:

To develop the culture of the team working together so that collectively they focus on the very best outcomes for all children.



Sense of Belonging:

To build a shared understanding amongst all staff of the importance of their role so that everyone contributes towards the achievement of all children.



Realise the possible:

To ensure a coherent curriculum offer is in place so that all children have equal access to high quality teaching and learning in their classroom.



Removing barriers:

To place the highest priority on our most vulnerable pupils so that they progress in their learning alongside their peers.



Thank you for all of your continued support. As always, any questions, please catch me at the gate or send in an e mail.

We look forward to continuing our school improvement journey with you all alongside.

Warmest Wishes,
Louise Prywata

Dates for your Diary 2024:

Summer Term: Tuesday 4th June – Wednesday 24th July 2024

Autumn Term: Thursday 5th September – October 25th 2024

Monday 4th November – Thursday 19th December 2024

Further term dates are available on the school website

Sports Day – Friday 12th July. Times TBC

Leaver's Assembly – Tuesday 23rd July 2.15pm