

2016 – Help us make it an **even better** year for our children

Happy new year to all Evenlode Parents, Carers and Grandparents.

Thank you for making 2015 another good year for the School. We are writing to you to let you know how 2016 will bring with it more learning experiences for our children and even greater opportunities to work together to continue to make Evenlode a school we are all proud of.

At Evenlode we have an excellent track record of achievement for our children. This is due to our excellent Head Teacher and staff as well as our parents and carers whose support is essential to us. We are, however, facing unprecedented challenges. At our last Governors' meeting we discussed the fact that we cannot meet these challenges alone. We want to let you know what these challenges are, the effect they are having and what we can do together to tackle them.

We invite you all to come along to our Annual General Meeting that is due to be held at 6pm, on 29th February 2016 in the School's new hall where we will be talking about the important work we will be doing over the next year and to get involved in any way you can.

Mr. Ceri Griffiths

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body

www.evenlodeschool.co.uk

Celebrating Success

- Retained our 'Green' school category from Welsh Government meaning we are a **highly effective** school.
- Held the first elections to our **Pupil Senedd**, involving children in decisions that affect them.
- Introduced new **after school clubs** with positive parental feedback.
- Continued to perform strongly in **regional sports** activities.
- Made links **internationally** – including in Brazil, Denmark and Sweden.

And lots, lots more...



We have a great team at Evenlode

- Working with parents and carers, the PTA raised £15,838 in 2014/15 and spent £24,000 funding equipment for the new hall, playground equipment and trips amongst many other things.
- **Steve Rees, our Head Teacher, led the staff group to introduce new ways of working, undertake training and to run the school continuing to make it safe and effective for our children.**
- There were new elections to the Governing Body, bringing in new skills and experience to support the School.

Challenges Ahead

- Maintaining our strong record of achievement and aspiration in the face of **significant financial pressures.**
- Finding new ways of supporting our children to learn **vital ICT skills.**
- Recruiting **volunteers** to provide reading support for pupils.
- **Generating income** to support the school.

2016

Key Financial Facts

- Our school receives the **lowest amount of funding per pupil** of all schools in the Vale and the **lowest amount of the 11 members of our Family of Schools** with whom we are directly compared in relation to our performance.
- We spend 86% of our funding on staffing. **£116 per pupil is available to us to spend each year on supplies and services** such as teaching materials, music tuition, IT equipment, printing, furniture and training resources after other running costs are paid for.

We are:

- **Making savings** wherever we can – for example, we've recently changed our photocopying contract to lower costs and are looking at our staffing levels.
- Looking for **additional grants** to support activities.
- Introducing **new ways of working** for our staff, including more use of IT.
- Making the fantastic **new hall available to hire**.

Our children rise to the challenge

The School's fruit tuck shop is an excellent example of our children's enterprising skills. Entirely self-financing, the tuck shop is proving to be extremely successful, generating income and teaching pupils important entrepreneurial skills – as well as providing healthy and delicious break-time snacks!



Your support is vital

Tablet Computers

- We want to make Windows-based tablets available for pupils to use in school and at home, but do not have the funds to do so.
- We are looking at tablet leasing options for parents so we can deliver this part of the curriculum and equip our children with the important skills they will need for their future.

More information will be made available soon, but please come along to the information sessions so we can let you know about the potential arrangements and costs.

Learning Support

- We are looking for ways to support reading for our pupils due to the reduction in learning support staff in recent years.
- This type of support is vital if we are to sustain our high level of performance for our children in this area.

We are seeking volunteers who have some time that they can spend regularly in supporting reading and other activities in school.

Income Generation

- We have a fantastic new hall that parents have supported us to deliver.
- We now need to maximise the potential to deliver income from it to support school activities and avoid having to make savings from elsewhere in the school budget.

Please consider using the after school club. Also, if you have any ideas about how we could use the hall to generate income or would like to hire it, please get in touch.

If you have any other ideas or could help in any way, please contact us. This might be through:

- Access to **discounts** on items the school might use.
- Your contacts who may be interested in **sponsoring school activities**, such as learning visits.
- Making a regular voluntary donation to the School Fund.

Contact us: EvenlodePS@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Please join us at our Annual General Meeting, 29th February 2016, 6pm, School Hall

