



Kea Community Primary School

15 January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Some of you will have been aware at the weekend of the publication on Cornwall Live of school rankings in which Kea School did not receive a high rating.

Ratings like this are based solely on English and maths attainment at the end of Year 2 and Year 6 and the progress from Y2 – Y6. Our results have varied over the past three years, and summer 2018 results were disappointing. A number of reasons can be attributed to this, including significantly increased expectations of the new curriculum, particularly maths and a small number of children missing out on the expected level by just one mark in tests (each child is worth 3%).

I have discussed school attainment from last summer at length with staff and governors – everyone is aware of the areas in which we did less well (maths, more able writing, KS1 reading). We have a robust school development plan in place and the quality of teaching and learning is being closely monitored by the leadership team (Mrs Green, Mrs Olive, Mrs Drzymala and me) as well as by governors. In their termly newsletter, governors will report to parents on key areas of the school development plan.

Since being headteacher at Kea, I have been proud of our curriculum. There are many schools in Britain that drop huge areas of the curriculum, particularly in Y2 and Y6 in order that the children spend far more time on English and maths; in some cases children have had virtually exclusive diets of these two subjects for weeks on end – simply to achieve higher scores for the school. Here at Kea, staff work hard to create a rich curriculum with learning opportunities that children enjoy and remember. We never drop whole areas of the curriculum, even in the run up to the Year 6 SATS, as we believe that children thrive from a rounded and balanced approach to school life. Children at Kea benefit from attending school visits to enrich their learning, we offer sporting opportunities, produce extremely high quality musical productions and we endeavour to provide leadership opportunities, particularly as they get older, such as helping younger children at break times or leading tours of the school for visitors. I have received and heard high praise from teachers of local secondary schools (including Penair and Truro School) that typically ex Kea pupils are confident, articulate, well behaved, supportive towards others and have a great attitude towards learning.

Until recently, Ofsted inspectors focused almost exclusively on maths and English; hardly any attention (if any) was given to other areas of the curriculum. However, a new Ofsted framework (from Aut 2019) will place far more emphasis on the wider curriculum and will include a new “quality of education” judgement. We will of course continue to work to ensure that every child receives strong teaching of English and maths and that their progress is maximised in these areas and we will continue to provide a broad and stimulating curriculum which captures the children’s attention and develops other vital life skills.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Warren
Headteacher