



Achieving Excellence for Ourselves and Others



Bath Road
Peasedown St John
Bath BA2 8DH

Headteacher: Damian Knollys

Telephone & Fax: 01761 432311
Email: office@psjprimary.org.uk
www.peasedownstjohnprimary.org.uk

To Whom it May Concern

10th June 2016

I am delighted that Peasedown St John Primary School is in a position to offer chess as part of its curriculum in Year 5 from September 2016, funding permitting.

Ours is a school serving a diverse community, with some high levels of deprivation and disadvantage in very close proximity to the school. Having recently joined the Dragonfly Education Trust, we are seeking to build on a strong track record in curricular enrichment, with a view to offering as broad a range of opportunities to our children as we can. Chess fits very well into this programme.

Having personally run a chess club at my previous school, I know very well the benefits that it can bring for children:

- developing children's capacity for strategic thinking and tactical skills
- improving children's mathematical understanding
- enabling children to engage in healthy competition, learning how to win and how to lose gracefully
- supporting children's social interactions, turn-taking, responsiveness and interpretation of others' thinking
- establishing children's confidence independently to consider and make decisions for themselves
- providing real enjoyment in learning, in the context of a game with a genuinely global following

Initially we aim to roll out this programme to two classes, to evaluate its impact on them. I believe that the teaching techniques employed in the Chess in Schools and Communities project will also benefit my colleagues, who will observe their pupils learning in quite a different context from the more conventional and formal lessons of the national curriculum.

I also see the opportunities that chess brings for forging links with other schools, both within and beyond our local area, and I hope that the scheme will lead to us fielding competitive teams in tournaments in the months to come.

The sustainability of this excellent programme is of course dependent on funding, and I very much hope that we can secure the funds we need in order to operate it fully for the 2016-17 academic year. Any funding would, of course, be fully acknowledged and publicised and we would invite any donors to come and see the scheme in action in our school. This is a great opportunity to support an innovative and profound learning experience for our children and I fervently hope we can secure the financial backing we need for it to work.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Damian Knollys
Headteacher

