

Governor Newsletter – March 2017

As we approach the end of another term and in keeping with the Lent period leading to Easter, it is perhaps time for some reflection as the period since Christmas has once again been a busy one for school and a period where the school has had to cope with a number of staff illnesses.

From a school and governor perspective the beginning of February saw a very significant event in that the school had its OFSTED inspection. As you are probably aware the school was once again rated as being Good. Governors were extremely pleased and satisfied with this judgement and the associated detailed comments which rated the school as good in all the many areas the inspection covered, given the period of time since the last inspection, the change in nature of the inspection in itself and especially given the various changes and disruptions the school has had to endure and cope with in the last couple of years. The school, staff and children should be congratulated for their resilience and for achieving this OFSTED judgement. Particularly pleasing were the inspectors positive comments regarding children's behaviour and attitudes.

However the Governing Body is aware that it and the school should not become complacent but see this latest assessment as an excellent basis for further developing the school. Picking up on the Inspectors comments we will ensure that the school develops its work on writing and writing moderation. Further Governor training has taken place and a programme of training is being put in place to enhance the knowledge and skills of both new and more experienced governors.

We are pleased that our year group link governor programme is underway which we consider will lend to greater knowledge and understanding by the Governing Body, particularly in areas such as understanding and monitoring pupil progress and the way, for instance, that pupil premium funding is spent.

One of the key responsibilities of a school governing body, along with holding the Head Teacher to account for the performance of the school and ensuring the correct financial management of the school, is setting the strategic vision for the school. Governors have decided that this should be reviewed and reassessed and have set up a small working group to carry out this work. This is work which will be carried out over the remaining academic year and we would hope to gather views from many different parties, including parents during this process. How we see the school currently and where and how we would like to see the school in three to five years time are some of the important questions that we would like to explore in setting a new strategic framework for the school.

In terms of the Governing Body, we are pleased that Nick Kendrick has been able to continue his involvement with the school and Governing Body through his election as a Foundation Governor. We also have to report the Rev Steve Simcox has decided to step down from his ex officio governor role, although he will continue to take collective worship for both KS1 and KS2 children in church on a Wednesday morning.

In closing may I wish everyone associated with the school in whatever way a safe, happy and peaceful time this Easter.

Michael Moriaty, Chair of Governors