

Governors News April 2016

The **Strategic Leadership Team** of our governing body meets termly to review what the governor committees have done in the previous term and look at what they need to focus on in the forthcoming term. The Strategic Leadership Team includes, Mrs Magiera, the chairs of all the governor committees and myself as chair of the governing body. The document which leads our work is the school development plan which details the areas for development in our school and also which governing body committee is responsible for monitoring those areas. At our meeting at the end of last term, we looked through the development plan to ensure all the elements had been actioned and ensured that any outstanding items were scheduled in committee agendas for the summer term.

This is just a quick outline of the work of the Governing Body over the spring term, and what is planned for this term.

Our **Environment Committee** discussed the completion of work on the lighting in school. Plans to replace the existing lighting fittings with fewer longer lasting and more energy efficient LED fittings were discussed and agreed in principle, after the replacement of the fittings in the community room kitchen had been trialed and had positive feedback from staff. It was felt that the reduction in energy consumption and reduced bills would soon outweigh the costs of the new lights. Three quotes will be sought for a staged replacement of lights and discussed and agreed by governors before the go-ahead is given.

The annual health and safety review was completed and there were no actions recommended. Mrs Magiera reported that the last fire drill test was completed successfully with the whole school evacuated in 1 minute 50 seconds, which exceeds the target of 2 minutes.

The new gates outside the hall doors at the front of school were installed to allow the hall doors to be open whilst children and staff were using the hall, but preventing children having open access to the car park area. Governors felt that the whilst the gates should be closed when the hall was in use, they shouldn't be locked as this would cause a hazard in case of a fire.

This term the committee will be focusing on the building of a new eco-classroom to provide the extra space our school needs, we had confirmation at the end of last term that a bid for funding was successful and it is great to be able to get started on this exciting project.

The **Teaching and Learning Committee** continued to look in detail at the progress and attainment data for all children. The Government has made many changes to the way children's progress and attainment should be measured and significantly raised expectations of what children should be able to do at the end of year 6 in both English and maths. The impact of this on our children was discussed, and the importance of children knowing they had made good progress as children are no longer given 'levels' but are either 'below expected levels' 'meeting expectations' or 'exceeding expectations'.

Expectations at Key Stage 1 have also changed, generally the number of children predicted to be on track for 'meeting expectations' is above government targets, with focus for improvement being spelling

and grammar. Governors discussed the new requirements for writing, children need to get spelling and grammar right in their written assessments in order to meet age-related expectations.

Early Years children are making good progress, with focus areas being number skills and writing. We hope to continue the rising trend in the percentage of children achieving a good level of development.

Phonics tests take place in June and with extra support for a small number of children we hope that 80% of children will pass. This would continue the rising trend in our results and is higher than the national average figure.

Once the Standard Assessment Tests are completed Year 6 pupils will enjoy a broad range of educational activities including an inspirational day, planned for 12th July, when it is hoped that former pupils will be able to come and encourage children by sharing their achievements since leaving school. Governors discussed the need to ensure our children leave our school with the academic skills to have many opportunities opened to them but also ensuring they leave with morals and the understanding of how to be a good citizen and make an impact with good decision making in their local community and the world around them.

This term the focus of this committee will continue to be phonics and achieving a 'good level of development' in nursery and reception. Preparation for the standard assessment tests at both Key Stages, and ensuring our children in Year 6 are provided with the skills to do their best in a test situation will be high on the agenda. Mrs Kenyon will be reviewing the assessment tool that we use in school to track the children's progress and the committee will discuss how well it works for our school.

The **Workforce and Community Committee** discussed the latest information on applications for reception places, it is hoped that we will have 40 children starting reception in September 2016 in a year affected by low birth rate in the area generally. A proposed increase in pupil numbers at Kingsmead Primary School was also discussed.

The Christian Ethos of our school is a focus for this committee. Exciting plans for an Ethos conference to be held jointly with Tarporley and St Oswalds Primary Schools were discussed, the children on our Ethos Committee will be involved in planning the conference. Reverend Alison talked about the successful 11+ group in Church and the start of sessions for Year 5/6 children who wish to be confirmed after Easter.

This term this committee will be focusing on staffing and pupil numbers for September. Mrs Kimber will be invited to talk about Religious Education and standards in school whilst our family support worker Jackie Ellison and Mrs Osborn will report on family learning activities. Raising the profile of the school in the community continues to be important as our school budget is closely linked to pupil numbers.

The **Pay and Appraisal committee** will meet to update the pay policy; this is done every summer term.

Our **Finance Committee** updated and checked the Manual of Internal Financial Procedures, this is done annually as part of the work to complete the annual 'School's Financial Value Standard' (SFVS) documents which have to be sent to the Local Authority. The SFVS was completed and sent as required,

with progress on last year's action points considered, and any new actions for this year highlighted. The committee will ensure these are completed over the coming year.

This term the committee will look at the long term budget, review the asset register and check the audit certificate for our 'School Fund'. Our school is part of a cluster of schools who work together to improve the education of children in our community, this term we will review and monitor the spending for the cluster group.

The **Full Governing Body** meets once each term. We were delighted to welcome our new foundation governor, Mrs Landon, to her first Full Governing Body meeting last term. Governors also enjoyed impressive presentations from pupils from the school's Ethos Committee and Curriculum Committee. The Ethos Committee told us about the successful interfaith week in February and also their plans for an ethos conference. Curriculum committee pupils talked more about the work they do and their plans for an initiative to enhance the learning in school, more details to follow.

At our final full governing body meeting of this year we hope our head boy and head girl, Joel and Lily will join us to let governors hear about how they have found their year in these important roles.

Plans for our 'back to school' day for governors in the autumn term will be on the agenda for this meeting too. Following the great feedback from our first 'back to school day' last year governors will once again be invited to spend the whole day in school, the timetable for the day will include attending collective worship in Church, meeting subject leaders and teachers, being briefed by Mrs Magiera and our school's Senior leadership team on the latest changes and initiatives affecting our school as well as having lunch with the children and much more besides.