

### **An 'Outstanding' Church School**

Governors were delighted with the outcome of our Church School inspection in October. Mrs Magiera, her staff and a group of foundation governors worked hard to ensure that all the evidence and good practice was in place. The inspector observed teaching, looked at evidence in children's books and spoke to staff, children and governors before concluding that we were an outstanding church school. She said 'The school is extremely successful in creating a caring and Christian environment in which children thrive, succeed and are happy'.

### **Welcome to our newest governor...**

We were delighted to welcome a new foundation governor to our full governing body meeting in November. Tim Lee is a teacher at Hartford Church of England High School, holding the post of Assistant Head in charge of Church of England status, he also has responsibility for religious studies and citizenship education at the high school. Whilst Tim has a lot of experience in secondary education, this is his first role as a school governor. He has lived in Northwich for the last seven years and feels that his new role is part of his 'responsibility to support and nurture the younger members of our locality' as well as fulfilling a desire to learn more about school governance.

You can find out more about the governors on our Governing Body on the Governor section of the website.

### **Committee focus**

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

Our **Environment Committee** ensured that the Health and Safety Policy was updated and risk assessments were carried out. They also agreed that the replacement of the car park gates should go ahead. This term they will be carrying out a health and safety review, ensuring the roof repairs are completed and looking into installing a new path between the football area and the trim trail, a route used by children which gets very muddy.

The **Teaching and Learning Committee** looked in detail at the outcome of a Teaching and Learning Focus Review, which took place at the beginning of October. A consultant spent two days in school talking to staff, children and governors. He observed lessons, looked at children's books and analysed data. There was much to celebrate and generally his conclusions matched the school's own self-evaluation, showing that our leadership team, staff and governors are well aware of the schools strengths and what we need to do to continue to improve our school's effectiveness. Our school has booked a further review in

March to ensure that the strategies we are using are having an impact on the effectiveness of our school.

A big focus for the **Workforce and Community Committee** last term was ensuring that our school website included all the information that was required by new government guidance. Following on from this we also decided that communication should be a focus for our questionnaire consultation at parents' evening in October. The survey proved to be very informative and you should have recently received a letter outlining the results. The committee also approved updated e-safety and behaviour policies, as well as teacher appraisal and pay policies.

This term the Workforce and Community Committee will be looking at the application for the GOLD RE Quality Mark as part of their Church School Focus. Other areas for discussion at this meeting will be looking at staffing structure, and keeping an eye on pupil numbers and how we market our school.

Our **Finance Committee** keeps a close eye on the budget and ensures money is spent on priorities detailed in the School Development Plan. Governors check that all the correct financial procedures are followed, and the documentation is up to date. This term, the committee will ensure our school's 'Manual of Internal Financial Procedures' is updated and complete our 'School's Financial Value Standard' Assessment, which has to be sent to the local authority annually.

### **And Finally ...**

As a governing body we are always trying to improve our effectiveness. Training and development opportunities are accessed to improve the skills of individual governors whilst as a whole governing body we invited a trainer in to school to look in detail at 'RAISE online', the online Government data source which details the attainment and progress of our school. This was a very valuable evening which gave us the opportunity to look at the data in detail and discuss the picture it showed of our school compared with schools nationally, confirming our areas for improvement. Whilst, as governors, we are provided with a wealth of information about the progress and attainment of our pupils by Mrs Magiera and her team it is important that we have the knowledge and skills to go to external data sources such as 'RAISE online' and also the Fischer Family Trust so that we ensure the governors' role in monitoring and challenging our school to achieve the best outcomes for our children is rigorous.