

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

A change at the top

Since the last newsletter we have been very busy. You will all have read that Mrs Whitehurst is to take a sabbatical year, as Governors the sabbatical had to be agreed and interim arrangements put in place. I wrote in a previous article that Mrs Whitehurst was surrounded by an extremely strong senior management team, gone are the days when every decision was made by the Headteacher. Following numerous meetings and deliberations Miss Cockburn was asked to assume the role, we were delighted she accepted. While Mrs Whitehurst will be missed this is a fantastic opportunity for Miss Cockburn and a number of other staff to get valuable experience. The fact that it was possible to arrange a seamless transition is great news for everybody at the school.

50th Anniversary target update

You will know that a fund raising target of £50,000 was set to go along with the school's 50 year anniversary. I am delighted to report that we are tantalisingly close to achieving this target and we are confident that we will break through the target before the end of term. Clearly this is a significant amount of money and huge thanks must go to all involved with achieving this ambitious target. The majority of this money has already been ear marked to develop the early years outside learning area and hopefully you will have noticed the changes around the school. There is the new Forest School area, climbing apparatus and play area, storage sheds and a new sandpit arrives in the summer.

Last week the Governors met with the Early Years leaders, we were absolutely delighted to hear, and see, via empirical evidence that the new outside learning area has had a major impact on the children's learning. Children are encouraged to learn in a variety of ways, this excellent equipment aids that learning.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity again to thank you for your fantastic support and hope you have enjoyed the events that have been laid on. To say thank you to all of the parents, the governors have arranged an open evening at the school on the 14th July between 5.00pm and 6.30pm where refreshments and cakes will be available. It is also a chance for your child to show you their new classroom. Some of the governors will be in attendance so if you have any questions please ask us.

Key Stage Assessments - what does it all mean?

As a parent you will be aware that your child has recently been assessed to the government's new assessment framework. Every child is assessed in; Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Science. The assessment categories used are; working toward the expected standard, working at the expected standard, working at a greater depth within the expected standard. We are delighted to report the following:

Reading	82% children reaching expected	56% achieving greater depth
Writing	76% children reaching expected	28% achieving greater depth
Maths	91% children reaching expected	44% achieving greater depth

While the assessments are completed by your child's teacher they are independently assessed by a process of moderation. Put simply other teachers double check the results, from our school Miss Cockburn and Mrs Nicholl have been moderating in other schools which obviously improves the value of our own moderation.

Parent View

Can I please ask you to visit <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk> and record your views on our school? All of the results are available to anyone although meaningless until at least 50 responses have been received, so far we have recorded 4 responses.

James Rodea
Resources Governor