

Governor News – Autumn 24

Staff and Governor Shared evening

At the start of this school year we had our annual Staff and Governor Shared evening. This was, as always, a wonderful evening where we reflected on the achievements of our school and looked forward to the new and exciting challenges set for the year ahead.

These include hearing how the school will:

- Developing calculation Policies to help children – parents and governors – recognise clearly the steps of development in math's.
- Improving children's times table knowledge to at least in line with National Average Scores
- Continuing to develop children's writing with a focus on sentence structure, spelling and handwriting.
- Ensuring phonics groupings and lessons more closely match the children's phonic phase in order to develop fluency – (though we celebrated the achievement of 96% Y1 pass rate and 100% Y2 pass rate)
- Developing new and robust assessment systems in school – helping staff to track children's learning robustly.
- Linking computing and personal development, the school will continue to support children to deepen their understanding and ability to navigate the online world, learning about their responsibilities in the world of social media.
- The school will continue to develop children's self-awareness of their own needs and those of others, learning skills and strategies for self-regulation and support for their fellow learners.

As part of the evening we also got the opportunity to sample some of the wonderful food the schools catering team deliver on a daily basis!

Curriculum - Phonics Review Visit

A team of governors spent a delightful morning reviewing the schools development of phonics following the recommendations from OFSTED during the inspectors visit in May 24.

During our visit we observed the teaching and learning of phonics, spoke to staff, the phonics lead and heard some children read.

Children were clearly well engaged in their lessons, and all are now in groups matching their Read Write Ink assessment and phonics stage, practicing the reading of their books daily in school. Staff shared that this is helping them oversee the reading aspect of RWI more closely and in turn gives children confidence. Reading volunteer helpers (trained by the school) now provide additional reading support.

The Governors also found out that staff had received further where relevant and there are clear systems in place, tracking and monitoring progress.

It was very clear that the staff had worked hard to enhance further the systems for teaching Phonics and the children are clearly enjoying their learning as well as making good progress.

SEND – Coffee Morning for Parents

Emma and Clare were delighted to be part of our first coffee morning held by the school SENDCO and Headteacher, bringing together families of children with SEND. There was a wonderful turnout and it was lovely to meet with parents to listen, discuss and share experiences and thoughts about the challenges children with SEND and their parents can face. It was also wonderful to hear how supportive you find our school in helping in this journey. We also enjoyed hearing of the ideas you have to feedback to the Local Authority as it continues to develop its local offer.

We thank you for ideas for future meetings and look forward to our next meeting in the Spring term.

Christmas Production's

Wow – would like to congratulate all of the children and staff on the amazing performances that we have all enjoyed. We were bowled over by their confidence and professionalism.

Other Governor Updates and visits this term

Along with other training for Governors strategic leadership, the Governors all received an update from the Schools Designated Safeguarding Lead about roles and responsibilities for safeguarding and child protection, changes to the Keeping Children Safe in Education document and changes to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, agreed and accepted at the meeting.

Other visits and meetings include:

- Finance – We were also invited to discuss the schools predicted deficit budget with the Local Authority, who identified that the school is extremely effective and efficient in managing its budget, utilized well to deliver the best provision for children.
- SEND – meeting and review
- Disadvantage pupils (Pupil Premium Review)
- Safeguarding Review

Governor Thank You

This term we said a massive thank you to Cath Harrison, our Vice Chair of Governors who is retiring from her position after a substantial number of years of effective and supportive governance and leadership as part of our governing body. She has worked with professionalism, wisdom and compassion, being incredibly supportive to new members and upholding the school's vision and helping us to strive ever forwards. We thank her for her dedication and unwavering support and wish her well for the future.

We are delighted to share with you that Mr Jason Boasman and Miss Emma Blackwell will Co share the role of Vice Chair going forwards.