

# ANNUAL GOVERNOR UPDATE

As we near the end of the academic year the governors have reflected on the School's many successes and achievements over the past year. We wanted to write to you to highlight a few of these achievements and outline the role that governors play in supporting our School. We would also like to thank you, your wonderful children and our highly effective staff for enabling our School to become such a positive, nurturing and effective learning environment.

## **Our aims and vision:**

We aim to improve education for children in order to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge they need today and to prepare them for their future.

Our five core values are: politeness, independence, consideration, kindness and honesty. Children are also encouraged to show the following characteristics in their learning:

1. curiosity,
2. collaboration,
3. concentration,
4. confidence,
5. choice and
6. challenge.

## **Who are your current governors?**

- Community Governors: Mrs W Iveson, Mrs A Pickford
- LEA Governor: Mrs S Bussey
- Parent governors: Mr N Bhandari, Mrs C Eastman Mrs A Hickling (Chair), Mrs S Hughes (Vice Chair)
- Staff governors: Mrs H Butcher Mrs J English (Head), Mr B Reid

## **Who are we and what do we do?**

Mrs English and the staff manage the operational day-to-day running of the School with the governors providing strategic guidance. In the latest governance handbook governors' key activities are described as being:

- understanding our school
- setting our school's strategic direction
- commissioning action
- performance managing our school leaders
- checking that we are fit for purpose.

Our governing body is made up of staff, parents, Local Authority appointees and members of the local community. As volunteers the governing body needs to make best use of its time and individual governor's skills and experience. We meet once a term as a whole governing body and we have two committees: Curriculum and Resources; covering premises, finance and personnel. Each committee meets at least once a term.



## **How do we ensure that our children are safe and healthy at school?**

- Behaviour is always a key focus at School. Through use of the golden rules and various behaviour management tools we maintain a safe, supportive and collaborative environment.
- Designated link governors are assigned to Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Health and Safety; they meet with their link staff members regularly to monitor these key areas.

## **What have been some of our key achievements this year?**

- Ofsted! To receive a judgement of 'outstanding' is a significant achievement and testament to the leadership shown by Mrs English and the strong teaching and support from the whole staff team.
- Pupils continue to achieve above national expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- We have worked with the School to support development of our curriculum to be broad, balanced, innovative, creative and enhanced by new technology.
- The continued focus on literacy has been supported with use of new teaching techniques, such as 'Talk for Writing' and storytelling through dance. Many external specialists such as dance teachers and artists have been invited to work with the children and new sports clubs have been rolled out.
- There has been a focus on the outside learning environment which has been physically developed and increasingly utilised to enhance learning.
- Governors were successfully awarded the Governor Mark.
- We have been awarded the Arts Mark Gold.
- The School Council have continued to thrive and recently introduced a 'golden table' scheme to support positive lunchtime behaviour.
- The continued efforts from the Friends of Malvern Way means that we can provide additional enrichment activities for pupils. Their support is always greatly appreciated.

## **How do we ensure that we meet our responsibilities?**

We do this through a variety of methods, for example:

- The whole governing body agree the School budget annually and the Resources Committee scrutinise income and expenditure each term.
- Governors review the School Development Plan and self-evaluation documents; looking at our school targets, how these are being achieved, how they support/develop pupils and financial implications.
- The Curriculum Committee review pupil progress and achievement and look at teaching and learning. Governors scrutinise pupil data looking at progress by different pupil groups as well as overall attainment.
- We are accountable to OfSTED and were interviewed by the inspectors as part of the recent inspection where we were awarded the grade of 'outstanding' in all areas.
- We consider national policy changes and guidance. For example this year we have looked at how our sports grant funding has been spent and how our pupil premium funds are spent in support of pupils.
- We review health and safety and the premises. For example we have been lobbying for many years to get our mobile classrooms replaced. We are currently working with the Local Authority to achieve this goal as you will have seen from the planning notices that have been posted around the gates.
- We review and agree strategic policies and monitor implementation. For example there have been some national changes to teachers' pay that we carefully reviewed and subsequently updated our policies as a result. We have some personnel responsibilities: for example a panel of governors, guided by the Local Authority School Improvement Partner, recently appointed Mrs Cole to succeed Mrs English when she retires at the end of the school year.
- Each governor is linked to a different subject area and we work with the Subject Leaders to develop our understanding of the work that goes on within the school.

We hope this provides some insight into the role of governors at our school. If you have any comments or concerns please do not hesitate in writing to the governors, c/o the School Office.

Thank you for your support and for your delightful children. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs English for doing such a wonderful job in leading our School and wish her a relaxing retirement. We are sure that the next academic year will be just as successful as the last and we look forward to working with our new Headteacher, Mrs Cole, and other new members of the team.