

Governors' report – Spring Term 2016

This term is shorter because Easter is early this year, but we have done a lot since our November meeting! Our new arrangement of two meetings a term seems to be going well.

The first meeting of the term is when we do the 'business' part of our work to get the statutory and legal requirements sorted. We accepted some updated policies, focusing on; Child Protection, Safeguarding and preventing radicalisation; administering medicine in school; supporting the need for safe and practical school uniform; explaining why some activities for the pupils will be free and some may be optional. We also reviewed the Disability Access plan which helps us to plan for people who use our school with mobility or specific learning needs. We have also evaluated the action plan from the Section 11 Safeguarding Audit.

Spring is the time when a new school Budget for 2016/17 has to be set, so we have reviewed the spending in our current budget. We used a series of questions (SFVS) to query our actions and we are happy with what we have spent and what we are saving to spend later. We monitor PPG money very closely and know it is well spent on supporting many pupils with their learning. Pupils said they were pleased about the support that they got. We have agreed that some money will be used urgently to improve the car parking area. We have to send in our proposed new budget by the end of May. When the new Budget figures are confirmed, we hope we can go ahead and spend the rest as we planned.

Raise-on-Line data in December and our monitoring of the School Development Plan and the term's Raising Attainment Plan gave us an overview of how we are doing as a school and measure our progress. The second meeting in the second half of the term allowed us time to look at work going on in school and to see the targets being put into action for the areas which need to improve. We looked at the Early Years data to see if these young pupils are making good progress. By talking to them and their teachers, and by observing them in lessons, we can see very definite progress in these children's learning.

We have monitored the Creative curriculum in the classroom and made useful observations. We watched senior teachers evaluate teaching standards and learning progress in the Yr 4, 5 and 6 classes. The Deputy Head has completely over hauled the PHSE curriculum and embedded it into every aspect of school life. We can see the positive results in the classrooms and the conversations that we had with staff and pupils. We are sure that our new assessment for learning process is sound and that all staff and most of the pupils understand how it works.

We have made sure that all staff are updated in their need for training and put money aside for Single status settlement, when needed. We have monitored their engagement with parents and carers and found it good.

The replies from the questionnaire that you fill in for us in December showed a high level of satisfaction with the efforts of everyone at school on your child's behalf. Thank you. We are very pleased to see that our Nursery is full with a waiting list and there are very few spaces left in other classes.

The Governing body's work has to be scrutinised by independent assessors. We hope this will go ahead after we have completed our first year as a new group in the Autumn Term.

Trish Mclachlan - Chair of Governors

