



GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2023

QUESTIONNAIRES



We shall be sending out our annual survey to Parents and Carers at the beginning of next term and hope that as many of you as possible will complete and return them. Your responses help us gain a greater understanding of what matters to you about your child's education, and this in turn helps us to formulate our future strategy.

We review all responses and work with Jonathan Kirkham to improve aspects of the school, taking into account your views as appropriate. Examples of development areas, which resulted from last year's questionnaire include:-

- ◆ The introduction of parent coffee mornings, which recently focused on phonics enabling parents to learn more about the new approach that has been introduced.
- ◆ Researching alternative opportunities for newsletters to improve communication.
- ◆ Uploading children's progress data into the new data system (Arbor), enabling staff to use this at parents' evenings.
- ◆ Reviewing how to communicate the definition of 'bullying' and how school responds to the corresponding issues, as compared to conflict and relationship resolution.
- ◆ Reviewing the content of the website with the Headteacher, so that it offers parents an improved overview of the curriculum offered by the school. Over the past few years, staff have been checking what is learnt in different subject areas across the school. Most of these have now been uploaded to the website.

GOVERNOR VISITS



We have visited to observe the implementation of the school's strategic plan and how well it is working in practice. We have also fulfilled our statutory responsibilities with regard to Safeguarding, Finance, Health and Safety and

Special Educational Needs. This term we have:-

- ◆ Carried out two safeguarding visits
- ◆ Seen how teaching practices are being adapted to cater for the less able children
- ◆ Attended a staff meeting to learn about new initiatives
- ◆ Monitored the premises for any health and safety issues
- ◆ Met with staff to discuss the implementation of the new phonic approach and ascertained how it is working in practice
- ◆ Reviewed and checked payroll documentation and the monthly budget.

Goodbye...

We are very sorry that Nicki Whitehouse, one of our long standing governors, has resigned. Unfortunately her commitments mean that she is no longer able to continue in the role. We'd like to thank her for the significant contribution she has made. She has overseen developments in Health and Safety, taken on the role of Vice Chair of the Finance and Resources committee and, more recently, became chair of that committee. She also undertook many monitoring visits and sat on interview panels. We are very grateful for her commitment to the school and wish her well in the future.



Full Governing Body Meetings

This term we have focused on a strategic review of the school and governing body. We have discussed areas of strength and those requiring development, with the latter focused on:-

- ◆ Implementation of the new phonic approach and its progress
- ◆ Professional Development for staff and how it is being addressed
- ◆ Reviewing how Chairs and Vice Chairs are supported and how this could be developed.

In addition, the Headteacher reported on a curricular initiative enabling staff and governors to view strengths and areas of development for individual curricular areas, using a single page format.

Can You Help?

We have vacancies for co-opted governors and are actively looking for people to fill these positions. (At the moment we have our full quota of parent governors.) If you know someone who may be interested, or would like to learn more about the role, Jonathan Kirkham can answer any questions or put you in touch with one of us. There is further information on the attached poster. We'd be grateful if you could help us by displaying the poster at your place of work, or somewhere that is visible, or by passing it to someone you think may be interested?



Work of the Committees

Finance & Resources Committee

The committee has reviewed:-

- ◆ The budget plan and future spending
- ◆ Our financial procedures, as required by the annual Schools Financial Value Standards document, and recommended it for approval to the Full Governing Body
- ◆ Accident reporting systems
- ◆ Training records
- ◆ Health & Safety reports about compliance, as well as areas of the premises that require maintenance or improvement
- ◆ Safeguarding procedures and the monitoring schedule
- ◆ Lettings charges and the income generated
- ◆ Staffing

Learning & Wellbeing Committee

- ◆ English subject leaders attended our meeting and updated us on progress with the new phonics curriculum.
- ◆ We also learnt about an initiative concerning the development of 'wellbeing' for children and staff.
- ◆ Actions arising from the 2022 questionnaires have been reviewed.
- ◆ We have discussed aspects of the Behaviour Policy in practice.



Training

Governors have undertaken training in the following areas:-

- ◆ Safeguarding
- ◆ The Primary Curriculum
- ◆ Understanding Data in the Primary School
- ◆ Leading Effective Governance
- ◆ The SEND conference
- ◆ Attendance Briefing

Policies

The following policies have been reviewed and agreed this term:-

- ◆ Accessibility Plan
- ◆ Low Level Concern
- ◆ Freedom of Information Scheme
- ◆ Privacy Notices for Parents/Carers/ Pupils and Staff

These policies have been uploaded to the school's website for reference.