



DOVE BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

It has been a busy Spring & Summer Term for the members of the Governing Body who have been working as a team to:

- Design a process to interview and appoint a new Headteacher for the Autumn term.
- Interview and appoint James Cheesman as the new Headteacher who will start in the Autumn.
- Monitor the educational performance of the school and ensure pupils are making good progress.
- Ensure the schools finances are sound and the money is well spent

What have the Governing Body been doing this term?

The **Finance & Management Committee** met. Some of the key areas discussed were:

- **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).** Like all organisations the school has to ensure that all personal data that you share with the school is protected. The Governors were informed about the measures that have been put in place to make sure the school complies with all the legal requirements.
- **School Budget.** Governors were informed that there was a surplus for the 2017/18 financial year. This is very pleasing and illustrates how staff at the school are careful to ensure the budget is spent efficiently and effectively. Governors also reviewed and approved the budget for the next financial year.
- **Benchmarking.** Governors reviewed data which compares the costs of our school with other similar schools to highlight any areas where the school might be able to save money. Energy costs are an area that always seems high and is something the school is looking into.
- **Headteacher Transition.** Governors heard that Mr Cheesman had made a number of visits to the school in preparation for him becoming the Headteacher in the Autumn term.
- **Reviewing Policies relating to Appeals, Fire Information, Extremism and Radicalisation, and CCTV.**
- **New Technology in the Hall.** Governors were informed that the new equipment in the hall, used for assemblies etc was working very well.

The **Teaching & Learning Committee** met. Some of the key areas discussed were:

- **Pupil Progress** - Mrs Shields feedback about strengths seen across the school, and areas for further improvement. Governors were informed about the strategies that were being put in place to provide focus to help pupils make good progress.
- **Pupil Premium & Sports Grant Expenditure Information**

The **Full Governing Body** met. Some key areas discussed were.

- **Headteachers Report.** A comprehensive report that gives details of pupil attendance, pupil attainment and progress, pupil behaviour and safety.
- **Governor Visits.** Reports were noted from governors that had visited the school.
- **New Headteachers Report.** Mr Cheesman presented to Governors his impressions of the school and his ideas to continue the great progress children at Dove Bank make.

Latest News.....

As you will all know Mrs Shields will be leaving the school at the end of this term. During her time at Dove Bank Mrs Shields has worked tirelessly with her staff to create a place where children receive high quality teaching; make great progress while also having fun and learning life skills.

Mrs Shields has shown enormous commitment to the school and her passion and energy can be seen by the results that the children have gained; their fantastic attitude to learning and the wonderful environment that encourages all pupils to reach their potential.

We know that you will all want to join the Governors in saying a huge thank you to Mrs Shields and wish her lots of luck in her new role as Headteacher at Orchard Community Primary School.

Mr Cheesman will be joining us in the Autumn term and we're sure you and the children will make him welcome.

Monitoring Visits

During the term Governors have carried out various visits to the school to monitor the progress of pupils.

Mrs Melville carried out a visit to understand how the school is using data to enhance children's learning whilst also visiting the classrooms to see learning in action. It was noted that data is used effectively to indicate which areas needing focus and improvement. The visit also illustrated how all children are being challenged and encouraged to reach their full potential using differentiated learning.

Mrs Crane visited the school to observe an assembly and challenged how this learning was then followed-up and extended when the children returned to the classroom.

Mrs Pennelli reviewed progress in both Maths and Phonics. The visit highlighted areas where staff had used different teaching strategies to assist pupils progression and it was pleasing to see the positive impact this had on the children's attainment.

Throughout all visits to the school the Governors were delighted to see the how well behaved and confident all pupils of Dove Bank are.

How you can help ...

The help you give your children to support their learning at home is really valuable.

When governors visit the school we can really see the benefit children gain if they are supported at home to read, practice spellings or complete their homework. Your help encouraging and supporting your children is really appreciated.

We have also been made aware, through our monitoring of the use of sports premium money, that fewer numbers of pupils are confident swimmers. Although the school will be reviewing how we deliver swimming lessons within the curriculum we'd like to encourage parents to consider how they can supplement this learning either with visits or extra lessons at your local pool.

As always, the Governors would like to thank all parents for their continued support throughout the year.

The Governors