



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:

- Work with the Headteacher to plan for the new extension to the school.
- Support the Headteacher to understand what pupil numbers may look like in the future and plan budgets and resources to ensure the correct teaching staff are in place.
- 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:

- **Presentation of the closing budget for the year 2018/19 and the proposed budget for 2019/20.** Governors were particularly interested in how the Pupil Premium had been spent and the conditions that apply to its use. The budget for the next financial year was reviewed and approved, making some provision for extra spend that may occur as a result of the increase in classroom numbers.
- **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 that is trying to be addressed during the building of the extension to the school.
- **Staffing—Premises Officer.** Governors heard about the planned interviews for the Premises Officer position which they were due to assist with. This position is currently being re-advertised.

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

- **Pupil Progress** - The Headteacher and Governors discussed how our monitoring visits could be more effective and timed to link in with key milestones in the school improvement plan. Governors also heard how teachers now assess pupils progress and data had been provided to the committee supporting this.
- **2019/20 Admission Numbers** - Governors were provided with forecast admission numbers for the next year and governors were pleased to be informed that the budget was in place to provide additional teaching capacity for those classes where pupil numbers had grown.

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. Governors heard that attendance remained an issue and were supportive of the Headteacher taking further steps to reduce absence.
- **Governor Visits.** A number of Governor visits had taken place including: Maths, Literacy, SATS Administration, Health & Safety, Assessment Review and Safeguarding.
- **Governor Appointments.** Governors discussed governor positions that were becoming vacant.

Latest News.....

As you will all know, the Summer Term is soon to come to an end and we wish all the Year 6 pupils every success in their future schooling. During the Summer holidays building work will continue, with internal refurbishment to existing parts of the building to form a further new classroom from the 'Help Me Room' and the current 'Library'. When the children come back in September the school should no longer look like a building site, and although we won't have the maximum number of pupils, we will be making use of the new rooms that the extension provides. I'm sure the children will all be excited to see and use the new facilities.

Governors had opportunity to visit the school during the year, you can see some of the detail of those visits in this newsletter, but it's really great to be able to report that the Governors were delighted to see the how well behaved and confident all pupils of Dove Bank were whenever we saw and spoke to the children.

Monitoring Visits

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

Mrs Melville carried out a visit to look at how teachers are using a new data system to track pupil progress.

Mrs Crane visited the school to perform a Safeguarding Audit. The school takes safeguarding very seriously and the audit gives good assurance that the school has correct safeguarding procedures in place to protect the children.

Mrs Pennelli reviewed progress in English and saw how grammar is now embedded within the English lessons and how measures were put in place, at an early stage, to encourage good handwriting.

Mrs Moran looked at the implementation of a new way of teaching maths: Maths Mastery. It was pleasing to hear that the new way of teaching had been embraced by staff and pupils alike and that the classrooms were 'buzzing'.

Mr Hale continued to support the school with visits for the Health & Safety Audit and to meet to discuss the schools finances.

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 number skills or complete their homework. Your help encouraging and supporting your children is really appreciated.

We currently have a vacant position for a co-opted governor on the governing board and will be approaching local businesses to ask if any of their employees may want to help the school as a governor. We also have a parent governor position becoming vacant in November and will be asking if any parents would be interested in joining us to help the school continue to improve and provide a fantastic learning environment for your children. More information will be provided in the Autumn term so you can find out what being a governor involves.

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