

Hannah Ball School

Governor Newsletter December 2020

Together we Inspire, Aspire and Achieve



Dear Parents and carers,

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank everyone in the school community for your support this year. It has been distressing for everyone that so many children were not physically able to be in school for so much of the year and considerable effort and investment is being made to ensure pupils both catch up on what they missed, as well as accelerating their learning and progress. We are delighted to see them safe and happy to be back at school.

It is the role of the governors to oversee the strategies and plans that the School puts in place; to ensure that they are properly funded and that they deliver the outcomes intended. This term we have said a big thank you and farewell to our parent governor, Elvan Clarke, and welcomed the following new faces to our board.



Emily Brown joins Gareth Groves as a parent governor. Emily's children are currently in YR and Y3.



Ms Mehdi, our Y3 teacher joins Mr Hingley as a staff representative on the board



Helen Manners, who is a secondary school science teacher, and John Smith, a recently retired police officer, have both been co-opted for the specialist skills and experience they will bring to the school.



Sue Huntley, Cindy Stagg and Victoria Lee continue to serve as LA and co-opted governors respectively.

As well as the committee meetings we have held this term, there have also been 11 monitoring visits. These range from well-being and behaviour, to health and safety to subject areas. Every governor has a particular area of responsibility and the purpose of the visits is to see what work is going on in school and what steps need to be taken to help deliver further improvements.

As we look back on 2020 many positive changes have taken place.

Outside areas – following on from our last parents' survey, considerable investment has taken place in the playground and classroom outdoor learning spaces. There is now more covered play space freeing up the playground area for more physical games. In addition, more playground activities/ toys are available, and the woodland area is being explored.

We listen to your feedback very carefully and will be asking you again in the spring for your views on the school.

Curriculum development – the school has invested in new curriculum materials and pupil laptops. Software, such as Maths Whizz, was important during lockdown to support children's learning and further schemes have been introduced across a range of subjects. Following the return to school after lockdown, there is an increased emphasis on reading schemes, vocabulary, and writing.

What the school has not been able to do enough of this year is to take the children out on trips and educational experiences to inspire their imaginations. We all hope that will happen in 2021.

Leadership and Management – Over the past year, the governors have appointed Mr Hingley as the substantive headteacher and supported in the recruitment of Mrs Machingauta as deputy head. The senior team has put a lot of work into recruiting new teachers and learning support assistants to provide additional help in the classroom. We know from your feedback how important it is for the children to have the same teacher all year, and we have tried hard to make sure that happens.

Behaviour, well-being and safeguarding – this is always an important area and this year it is critical. We regularly review our safeguarding procedures and involve the pupils in our health and safety walkabouts. Much time and effort has been taken this term to review both staff and pupil well-being. For the staff we have invested in additional laptops to help them support pupils working remotely from home. For the children we are aware that many are upset by the events of the year and so pastoral support and behaviour plans are being actively used to support those who need it.

Once again, I would like to thank you for all the time and support you have given your children and their school in the last year; it is really appreciated. If there is anything that you wish to comment on within this newsletter then please contact me via the school office. More information about the governing body can also be found on the school website.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and look forward to meeting you in person in the new year.

Jo Warnock-Horn (Chair of governors)

