

GOVERNORS' GAZETTE

Spring Term 2016



Dear Families,

We are halfway through the school year! I hope that your child is making good progress both in their learning and social development.

I know that Mrs Abbot has already sent a message out about Y2 SATs. Governors would like to reinforce the message that the school works hard to help the children to show what they know, understand can do in the national tests but without undue pressure. Attendance at school is always important but especially at test time and I am confident that all of you will make sure that, as long as your child is fit and well, they will be in school to participate in the SATs and do themselves, you and the school proud!



What are governors doing this term?

Review of school priorities, values and ethos:

We have worked with the school staff to agree key priorities to work on and have updated the school vision and school logo.

Budget: It is time for the governors to be reviewing our current budget and looking to setting a draft budget for the new financial year starting in April.

As you will know, from the national media, additional spend on education is extremely limited and combined with cost of living increases on all utilities and rates etc. any additional funding does not increase the overall spending power of our income making it quite hard to do very much more than essential development work.

Academy Status The Secretary of State for Education recently announced that by 2020 all community /church schools would move from being managed and overseen by a Local Authority to being managed and overseen by a Regional

Schools' Commissioner and be called 'academies'. There are various types of academies and the governors at Moss Lane have been pro-active in seeking out information and possible future options for our school. We are keen to maintain our current ethos and independence and to choose any partner schools with care so that we maintain what we love about Moss Lane whilst benefitting from working in partnership with a bigger organisation.

At this time, we have no clear plans that we are pursuing but when we do get to that stage we will make sure all families are aware of what we are thinking and keep everyone in the loop.

Monitoring: Governors have been looking at the data that shows the progress children are making, both from the start of the year and, for older children since they started at Moss Lane. The government sets expectations for what they consider 'good' progress and it is the governors' responsibility to monitor that the school is meeting these expectations.

There has been a recent major change in the curriculum expectations and also in the systems used to measure and track the progress children make so staff have been working hard to get to grips with the new demands.

This term, governors have also been monitoring the school's systems for keeping children safe whilst they are in school and beyond. New national expectations regarding preventing radicalisation and promoting British Values are also part of this monitoring role. Governors all attend training to keep them up to speed with the many new expectations.



Questionnaires:

Please do take time to go on line to complete the OFSTED parent survey as this also helps us to monitor how you view the provision at our school. It does not take very long!

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/> or follow the link on the website.

All families should have received the governors survey about swimming sessions. It is helpful for governors to have a good number of returns so we can make a well informed decision about how to proceed. Thank you for taking the time to complete these surveys.



A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL FAMILIES FOR SUPPORTING THE 'PEPPERPOT' FUNDRAISING

Michelle Daniels, one of our governors, has been co-ordinating the fundraising campaign in liaison the PTA chair, Louise Field. Along with monies from the school's budget, PTA funds and other generous private donations and grants we were thrilled to give the go ahead for the Pepperpot to be installed at half term. I think it is a very good reflection of our families' support for our school and children when, together, we can achieve swift completion of a successful project!

We all really hope that we can raise even more funds so we can proceed with the next phase of exciting playground improvements. Michelle, Louise and another parent, Holly Rawlings are working together to discover, and to try to access, different funding sources. Sadly, it is unlikely that any more school budget funds can be directed to this new phase.

If any parent or carer has links to, or knows of, grants or funds that our playground project might benefit from please contact Michelle via email: michelle@extendedthinking.com.

Who Are We?

Parent Governors

Dewi ab Iorwerth (vice Chair & Curriculum Lead)
Giles Bedloe (Safeguarding Lead)
Mark Berry (Finance lead)

Co-opted

Carol Edmans (Progress and Standards Lead)
Michelle Daniels (Community /Communications lead)
Steve Goddard (Premises lead)
Elaine Joyce (chair & Leadership/H&S lead)

Local Authority

Kirsty Walden (Finance /Communications support)

Staff

Cindylou Turner Taylor (EYFS Lead)

Headteacher

Victoria Abbott

Clerk to Governors

Pam Langridge

You can always contact governors by leaving a letter at the school office, via email to the clerk pamandbenhome@gmail.com or to the Chair of Governors (Elaine Joyce) joyceelaine@btinternet.com

If you want to know more about the role of the governors, or think you may like to become a governor in the future you can attend a governing body meeting as an observer. Please contact Pam Langridge, our clerk, if you wish to do this.

With all best wishes for the rest of the term and for a lovely Easter break at the end of the month,

Elaine Joyce

Chair of Governors

