

Governor update

Summer Term 2017

Chair of Governors

We've made it to the end of term! I don't know about you but my family is absolutely ready for our Summer break.



Alongside our children and teachers, the Governing Body has had a busy term. Our focus has been on the Head Teacher recruitment which Katy will update you on later in this newsletter. The Head Teacher Recruitment Panel of Katy, Kathy, Jeremy & Rev Jax have done an incredible job and I am confident that we will secure a number of strong applications ahead of the application deadline of 4th September 2017.

Amongst our many statutory responsibilities, we've squeezed in some downtime. I hosted a Governor BBQ last weekend as a thank you to Governors for their time and commitment in Sparsholt School and to say goodbye to Mrs McCarthy.

As I shared in last terms newsletter, the Governors are extremely grateful to Mrs McCarthy for her inspirational leadership over the last 3 years and we wished her undoubted success in her new school.

Thankyou also to Mrs O'Connor and Mrs Edwards for their many years of support of Sparsholt School. Their extensive experience and caring, personal approach has ensured that Sparsholts early years provision has been some of the best in the county.

Mrs Laver & Mrs Gwilliam will have an extremely busy Autumn term and I look forward to our school community coming together to support them.

Wishing you and your families a great Summer,

Victoria

Head Teacher Recruitment , Katy Cobbold

We have spent a lot of time recently as a whole governing body working through the job description and person specification for our new Head Teacher. The advert is now live on Hampshire County Councils website and the county recruitment team are managing the process.

The closing date is the 4th September and we are looking forward to the interview days later on that month.

If you have any questions about any aspects of the recruitment process please contact Katy Cobbold (07881 786456).

Children's Progress

Mrs McCarthy shared Sparsholts KS1 & KS2 SAT's results in last weeks school newsletter and together with the Early Years attainment, these were reviewed at the recent Full Governing Body meeting on 5th July'17.

The Governing Body was thrilled with the results, the culmination of specific, child based plans that had been built a year ago - I'd like to explain what this has meant for one subject over the last year.

On reviewing the SAT's results from 16/17, the leadership team wanted to increase the learning outcomes for Writing across the school. This became a priority for the 16/17 School Improvement Plan and by doing this, resources were released to ensure our children had access to the latest and best learning tools and strategies in order to improve our children's writing outcomes. Child led targets were set and then plans put in place to help each child reach their potential from Sept last year.

With 94% of KS2 children at ARE on Writing and 38% at Greater Depth, we can see this focus has delivered greatly for our children.

The Governing Body would like to congratulate our children and our teachers on these results and thank our parents for your partnership at home.



School Visits

Website Review

Did you know that Ofsted have very high and strict expectations on what should feature on a school website?

Alongside our school address and postcode, SAT's results and admissions policy, we must also share the content of our curriculum as well as our behaviour policy.

Kath Edgecombe reviewed Sparsholts website this term and has confirmed that our school website is fully compliant. She was also impressed by the wealth of information that is on the school website and will be making recommendations on how we ALL can benefit from the site more in 17/18. At the recent Governors meeting, we thanked Mrs Sheppeck for everything she does to maintain this invaluable resource.

Special Education Needs Review, Jeremy Bennett

Our designated special educational needs (SEN) governor, Jeremy Bennett, met Mrs. Laver, the school's SEN co-ordinator, on 14th July. The focus of this visit was to review the school's provision for children on the school's SEN register as well as other children requiring intervention support, whether on a short or longer-term basis.

A detailed structured programme of support, appropriate to their individual needs, is in place for all such children. Intervention programmes are implemented by class teachers and LSAs, and regularly monitored and updated in consultation with Mrs. Laver, who also conducts regular staff training (often led by specialist external trainers) to support them in delivering the programmes.

Although there is regular contact between the school and parents of children requiring additional learning support, in seeking to create the very best learning outcomes for the children concerned, Mrs. Laver will from the beginning of next term formally invite relevant parents to meet her once a term to review their child's needs and progress.

If parents have any questions regarding SEN provision, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance and Mrs Laver.

Safeguarding Review

Mrs McCarthy is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at Sparsholt School and Victoria Parker, the Safeguarding Governor.

Alongside a safeguarding audit that is completed in September every year, the responsible Governor will visit school in the Spring or Summer term to review the safeguarding systems that are in place. Having taken over from Mrs Ireland, Mrs Richens is now responsible and the review meeting was held in July'17.

During the meeting, the following was reviewed and discussed: the safeguarding training in place for teachers, the management of the single central record (SCR), safeguarding checks in place for our new teachers and volunteers, keeping children safe on site (including bus register, gate access and visitor access) and keeping children safe off site.

The review concluded that all systems are in place and are regularly reviewed and improvements in place.