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- Present: Katie Blood (HT), Stephen Berry (Chair), Fr Martin Morgan (Vice Chair), Tony Firmin, Nikki Harper, Jane Gray, Ian Beggs, Dan MacIntyre, Francesca Urquhart (*left after 1 hour*)
- In attendance: Tom Way (Clerk)
- Apologies: Fiona Keeling (Deputy HT)
- Quorum: 9 out of 9 governors were present. The meeting was quorate (at least 50% attending).

Questions from the governors to the HT and DHT are highlighted in **bold**.

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## 1. Welcome / apologies for absence

Governors accepted the apologies for absence from FK.

SB advised that the agenda will consist of the HT's updates, plans for next year and an election for Chair.

## 2. Headteacher's updates

The HT circulated a detailed governors' update document and provided the following summary:

- More staff have returned to the school as of the 15<sup>th</sup> June, and children (whose parents wanted them to return) in Reception, year 1 and year 6 have returned on a part time basis.
- There are currently an average 12 children accessing provision every day and about 25 each week. Some of the more challenging children have returned on a part time basis and this has been successfully managed.
- Children in year 6 have been creating art for Martlet's hospices.
- Staff meetings partly of a more informal nature are taking place regularly again.
- The Free School Meals scheme has been set up and facilitated well by Miss Charlton, a foodbank has been set up and may be long term.
- The school is eligible to claim back up to £25,000 for costs incurred due to coronavirus. The school has bought laptops for all staff so they can efficiently work at home – the laptops being used before were all around 10 years old and did not work well.



- The government has announced £650 million for catch up support which may result in £91 per eligible child, which the HT advised will not be enough to help children catch up.
- There have been various positives during the pandemic too, e.g. teachers have found new interesting activities for pupils' home-learning, staff have been working with mixed age groups, phone calls to families have been taking place regularly which have been useful for them, the website is being used and updated regularly.

The HT advised that with hindsight if this happens again, they would be able to offer more to families in the way of provision, and that staffing levels turned out to be okay when they thought it might be worse, and that getting more children back sooner would be manageable.

FrMM commented that congratulations were in order to the HT and the school for maintaining all that they have done despite poor guidance from the government.

**If everyone comes back in September and the demands/targets of Ofsted are the same, can the school take the positives during this period forward?**

The HT advised that they should be able to and that they will try to bring these forward whilst working towards the Ofsted targets. The HT also advised that there is time allocated in staff meetings to researching things that they couldn't do before and that staff are building in these positive things in their reports.

**Does the school have systems in place for home-learning in the event of a second lockdown?**

The HT advised that the school does not and that there are limits to their provision for this, and that some families don't have the technology necessary for this or are unable to use it, and that no solutions have been provided for this. The HT advised that they would need something set up by the end of September, and they are not sure how to facilitate this for everyone.

There was a general discussion around home-learning IT issues and virtual classroom provision, and FrMM suggested that the FGB offers its full support to the HT for using their discretion around the home-learning guidance in order to give the best possible teaching provision.

The HT circulated a document containing an analysis of families engaging with home-learning and advised that only 36% of disadvantaged pupils are accessing resources, and there was a further discussion around the issues involved with this. The HT advised that if a second lockdown happens the key focus will be about how to keep pupils engaged in learning.



The HT provided an update on Caroline Lucas's question to parliament regarding additional funding for schools to cover the ongoing costs of Covid 19 and advised that the response was that there would be no extra funding and that this has to come from the existing budget.

The HT circulated a staff survey about coming back to work in September and advised that the responses were varied, and that they are taking the approach of how to support staff returning. There was a discussion around using the church as an alternative school space, and the HT advised that there are issues with doing this but that they are looking into it. Regarding plans for September the HT advised that Bubble Zones should be okay to implement and hygiene has been well-maintained, but that lunch time is an issue in terms of distancing. The HT advised that they have been in discussion with headteachers from other small schools and that varied approaches are being taken.

The HT advised that there are more pupils with educational healthcare plans joining the school in September and that the school needs to hire more TAs for this (currently looking at 5 in total).

***FU left the meeting.***

The HT advised that they had been in discussion with the LA SEN team about the budget issues around this and informed them that it is essential they appoint more TAs in September but that this will effectively double the school's budget deficit, and they were in agreement that the HT should do this.

SB advised that the SBM has updated the budget in light of this and that the new deficit is projected at £131,919 now, and the HT advised that this is all on staffing. There was a further discussion around this with the HT confirming that there were no more savings to be made, and FrMM advised that this is the reality of the cost of running the school now and that the LA should adapt their expectations to this. The HT agreed with this and advised that the school is not doing anything questionable or controversial in the budget.

**3. Plans for next year**

The HT circulated the school's 5 Year Plan and provided a summary of this and advised that there will be a focus on skilling up TAs with a view to being more effective with more children.

**4. Election of Chair**

The Clerk advised that SB's term as Chair of governors expired in April and that the FGB needed to hold an election here, and asked for nominations to be put forward.



FrMM nominated SB to continue in the role of Chair and the HT seconded this. SB agreed to their nomination as Chair, and there were no other nominations put forward.

*The Clerk asked governors to vote on electing SB as Chair, and all governors unanimously agreed to SB continuing as Chair.*

**ACTIONS**

**4.1** Clerk to update the records with SB's new term as Chair of governors and inform governor support

**5. Urgent business not on agenda**

**In regards to the children's mental health, how will this be assessed when they return to the school? [*brief discussion summarising potential issues*]**

The HT advised that there is no official method of assessment for this, and that in some cases it may be obvious but in others not. The HT further advised that PSHE will be undertaken in the first few weeks back and that it will be a case of seeing how it goes at first, and that the school will be taking an inclusive and supportive approach, but also that lack of funding for mental health is a problem and it may be difficult. There was a further discussion around this and the potential long-term issues extending to Christmas and the following year, and the HT asked that if governors become aware of any funding streams, bids or grants for mental health that they should let them know.

The meeting closed at 19:07 pm.

Signed .....[*authorised electronically by Stephen Berry*]..... Chair of Governors

Date.....

The next FGB meeting will be on Thursday 15 October 2020 at 5.45pm