



20th July 2015

Chair of Governors Update July 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to give you all an update from the Southway Junior School Governing Body. We have had another very successful term.

Ofsted

As I am sure you are all aware the school was formally inspected by Ofsted in June. The inspection was most detailed and over the course of the 2 days the school, its staff and Governors and pupils were all interviewed and observed.

The outcome in all four categories of the report was GOOD which we were striving for and I am personally delighted that all our efforts have been formally noted.

The report is glowing in the improvements we have undertaken since the last inspection and this is down to the dedication and vision of the staff and governors in all our relentless efforts to make Southway a good school.

I do not wish to go into detail on the report (we intend to hold briefing session with parents in September) but wish to state to you all that we will not rest on our laurels and now aim to make Southway not only the best school in the locality but beyond.

I hope you will all read the report and when we hold parent meetings in September as many of you as possible attend as we always value your feedback and comments.

Investment in School Fabric

I am sure many of you will have seen the major redecoration we have undertaken along with new furniture in the small classroom and display boards in the corridors.

The investment does not end there, with further improvements planned in the summer holidays including the refurbishment and new equipment in the Zone transforming it into a DT Science and Art classroom. We will also be upgrading lighting throughout the school, replacing all classroom doors and redecorating the main halls and Year 3 corridors.

When completed for the start of next term we will have completed the total redecoration of the whole school, a major undertaking considering it has not been refreshed for some considerable time!

I am of the firm belief that if you get the environment the children learn in to the highest standard possible this will have a positive effect on their learning.

Learning and achieving together



Staff Update

As we say farewell to Michael Dewey we welcome our new Deputy Head, Helen Denison, in September. Helen joins us with a wealth of experience from her school in Haywards Heath and will be a valuable asset to our Senior Leadership Team. She is a Maths subject leader as well as being a specialist in the field of school data, both areas of expertise the school will benefit from.

We also welcome a number of other new staff all of which will add to the already highly professional and dedicated team we have in place.

The Governing Body has supported the school in adding increased internal supply teaching to cover sickness and staff absence at courses and other essential events. The benefit of in house supply cover is most prevalent in the fact the teachers know the school and children very well and can provide seamless and effective cover as required.

Thanks to Staff

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to the staff of the school. Their dedication and hard work is showing true reward and I am sure you will agree the children are thriving as a result. The effort and determination they give day in day out is a tribute to their desire to provide the best possible education to all the pupils.

It is all too clear to see just what a positive effect our current head Pete Newbold has had as the leader of the school. He never loses his focus in improving the school and in our regular dialogue we are always looking at the next project or opportunity. Without his vision and delivery I am certain we would not have made the huge impact to date.

We send our best wishes to Andrea Bray and Jo Peiris as they leave us temporarily whilst on maternity leave. We look forward to seeing your new babies in the months ahead!

Michael Dewey

A special mention to Michael Dewey our Deputy Head as he leaves for Hong Kong. Michael has been a most loyal servant to Southway and will be sorely missed by all, especially the pupils. His impact at Southway over the years cannot be underestimated and I know you will all share my feeling that it is with heavy heart we say goodbye!

Summer Holidays and Year 6 Children

On behalf of the Governing Body I wish staff pupils parents and carers a very relaxing Summer holiday. To the Year 6 leavers we wish you the very best of luck in your new schools and remember that you are always welcome to visit the school; you will always be part of the Southway family.

Having had the privilege of watching the Year 6 performance recently I reminded myself of the overall wide and varied educational experience our children receive and this was no more clearly demonstrated than at the wonderful performance.

Your Governing Body is committed to the school and its development. We are always open to new suggestions thoughts and feedback. Contact can be made via the office where any of us will be happy to speak with you.



Peter Izard
Chair of Governors