

Governing Body Update April 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to give you all an update on behalf of the Southway Junior School Governing Body.

Curriculum

I would like to begin by following up on the message that Mr Newbold gave in his latest newsletter.

The Governing Body are committed to ensuring the school continues to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils. The detailed planning and thought that goes into every lesson and activity ensures that our children really do experience a diverse and varied learning curriculum, with so many opportunities to learn new skills. Our staff are so creative and hard-working and we appreciate and recognise the efforts they put in to ensure this.

Investment in School Fabric and Premises

We continue to invest in the school and this is always with the pupils in mind. We have recently approved an upgrade on the fencing around the school which will ensure we improve our site security as well as improve the look of the school environment.

I am sure you will have seen the new Gym equipment in the playground. I have personally witnessed its popularity with the children.



We have also commissioned work on the pond which will see it being re-habited, deepened and a new all-weather path installed. This will allow teachers and children to use it far more regularly and this rich natural habitat can be experienced all year round.

Our Learning and Resource Centre (LaRC) is gradually being upgraded and work will continue in this indoor classroom, providing additional facilities for the learning of our

pupils.

We will be having some further murals painted in the school grounds for the children to enjoy and learn from.

At a time of severe funding issues our prudent financial planning has allowed us to maintain investment in the school whilst ensuring we maintain a 3 year overview of funding. However, it is clear that there is no light on the horizon for schools despite the persistent lobbying of the government to recognise the situation.

Finally, our new Premises Manager, Mr Le Gonidec, has been with us for a few weeks now and the school premises and grounds continue to improve under his guidance.

SATS

With SATS fast approaching for our Year 6 children I would like to confirm a member of the Governing Body will be attending the tests each day. This is to ensure the school is meeting its statutory requirements and that we conduct the tests according to government guidance. I am always impressed of just how well prepared the children are for SATS and how they take them in their stride like any other school day. We wish them all the very best of luck.

Thanks to Staff

I would like to place on record our sincere thanks to the staff. Along with the other members of the governing body I am a regular visitor to school and I witness first-hand how every member of staff always places the children as their top priority. Their dedication and hard work continues to reap rewards 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.

The number of clubs and sessions that take place outside the school day grows and the children have the opportunity to join clubs as varied as gardening, tag rugby, choir and chess.

Thanks to Governing Body

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to my Governing Body. The support and dedication they give me and the school is always appreciated and ensures that together we hold the school to account whilst acting as a critical friend. In our roles as governors we are always focussed on the best interests of the school and its pupils and the unpaid role is so often underestimated in the time effort and resources it takes from the team.

Governor Positions Available

Your Governing Body is committed to the school and its future 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.



We are also looking for new recruits and if any parent or outside family member wishes to consider joining the Governing Body. I am always available to speak with any parent and share our inspirational work.

Peter IZARD
Chair of Governors