

## **GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER FOR HYDE SCHOOL**

**EDITION 13**

**Spring Term 2016**

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the Hyde School Governors newsletter, our once a term opportunity to inform parents about the work we have been doing to support our school.

### **Hello's and Goodbyes**

Following the departure of Mike Madgwick we advertised widely for a new Governor to replace him. The response was encouraging and we hope to welcome one new governor to our team early next term. We were sad to say goodbye to Lianne Whitham who had briefly served as our clerk but fortunately we now have the services of a new clerk who will begin work next term.

### **Keeping ourselves up- to- date**

It has been a busy term keeping up to date with educational initiatives and the requirements of the new Ofsted criteria. As you may be aware there are four key judgements for inspection: effectiveness of leadership and management, quality of teaching and assessment, outcome for children and learners and now a new one to consider- personal development, behaviour and welfare. Four of us attended the course 'Understanding Ofsted' at Farnborough recently and we have been briefing our colleagues in readiness for an Ofsted visit sometime later in the year. As we are classified as a GOOD school, it is likely that we will have a one day visit to confirm our previous grading (or even to improve it!) so preparation is key. Fiona Leith, our Chair -in-waiting after the summer term, is attending the Chair of Governors development programme and is leading our discussions on our vision for the school's future. This is vital in making sure that our village school, which is such a precious asset to our community, continues to thrive in the ever changing landscape of the educational world.

Recent news from the Government that all schools are to be Academies by 2022 emphasises our need to be prepared for the future. We have already met with the local authority and will be meeting with the Diocese to discuss the possible pathways we may take in order to thrive in the years ahead. We will keep you informed of our progress in this vital area.

### **School Improvement plan and the Governors' role in monitoring**

As you will all know the assessment processes and procedures have changed this year and the school the staff have been busy with new methods of tracking pupils progress. Our key subject monitors, Anna Hills, Margaret Bunyard and Fiona Leith have been engaged in sampling children's learning in this area and conducting questionnaires with pupils in all the classes about their responses to the new marking systems thus gauging their understanding and involvement in these new initiatives.

Clare O'Shea has been monitoring the PE and sports provision in the school, working alongside Mr Wedick with ideas for increasing and enlarging the choices that we can provide for our children as they go through the school

### **School Website**

At last our new and updated website will be going 'live' at the end of this term. Thanks must go to Amanda Painter for working alongside Julie and the website designer to produce this key part of the school's information pack.

### **Feedback from Parents' Questionnaire**

27 responses were received from the questionnaire given at the recent Parents evenings and Anna Hills was tasked to collate the findings. It was gratifying to note that many of you filled in the **strongly agree** column in your ratings for your child's progress at school and their general well being and enjoyment of learning. When it came to describing the things that your child liked about the school, the following featured most strongly: *small class sizes, caring friendly family atmosphere in the school, the buddy system, great teaching staff, levels of individual attention, sense of belonging and security, playing on the common with older children, love of subjects including reading, writing, maths music and choosing time, great teachers who are caring and committed*

What you would like to see improved are: *more extra curricular activities and after school clubs, more sport especially for girls, more homework guidance, more visitors to the school with special interests to engage the children's curiosity. One family was concerned about the level of supervision on the common at lunchtime and aspects of safety on the road outside the school.*

These suggestions are currently being discussed by the Governors and considered. We will be following up your wish for more after school activities with a further questionnaire to find out more about your requests and how they could be met, given our limited resources.

### **Solar School Update**

Clare O'Shea reports some great news. Funding has been secured via a commercial donation for £7133 which is enough to install the 4Kw system at the school. Project Management has commenced and the installation will take place in the summer half term break. Any extra funds that are raised will be spent on environmental education. Under the lead of Mrs Hooy Meyer, children have written letters to various regional businesses asking for donations and will play their part in liaising with companies that support us in this venture.

It was a real pleasure and a great source of pride to be invited to attend the Hampshire Solar schools Energy competition organised by Cathy Cook at Beaulieu in March. Fiona and Anna witnessed class members from years four, five and six come third in the primary school competition, winning £100 from Elliotts the Builders to be spent on energy saving equipment at the school.

### **In school Visits**

Anna continues in her weekly “Talking Time” sessions role for children who request additional time for emotional or behavioural support. Margaret and Sue spent time doing art and craft work with those pupils who stayed on at school whilst their peers went on the residential course at Osmington Bay. We have been delighted to be invited to various class and celebration assemblies this term

### **Links with other schools**

This term Claire was our representative at the Western Area Governors Forum. The focus of this session was about diversity in Hampshire and the briefing supplied the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) could provide us with a useful link with pupils from an urban school who experience a different culture from our own.

### **Looking towards the future...**

Next term we will be playing host to other schools in the area and attending a Safeguarding Course for all the Governors and Staff at the school. This course is key to our continued well being as a school and provides a timely update before Ofsted for updating us on aspects of our children's welfare.

We also hope to welcome new Governors who will be responsible for ensuring financial probity for the school and for the succession planning for the current Chair's retirement at the end of the summer term.

We will also be meeting with a representative from the Diocese at one of our Full Governing Body meetings next term as well as continuing to make our strategic plans for the future of our school.

If you wish to contact any of us and share your thoughts or concerns we are:

Anna Hills (Chair of Governors)

Julie Dalziell (Head)

Sarah Close (Staff Governor)

Rob Shadbolt (Vice Chair, Parent Governor and Chair of Finance and Buildings)

Ian Whitham ( Vicar )

Jan Houghton Brown (Church representative)

Margaret Bunyard (Chair of School Improvement Committee)

Sue Willcocks ( Special needs Governor)

Amanda Painter (Parent Governor and School Improvement comm)

Claire O' Shea (Parent Governor and member of Finance Comm)

Fiona Leith (member of the Finance Comm. and School improvement comm)

On behalf of all of the Governors may I wish you a very Happy Easter to you and your family.

Anna Hills (Chair of Governors)