

Fen Ditton Community Primary School Local Governing Body (LGB) Update – September 2020

Dear Parents,

At our recent LGB meeting, we discussed how our communication with parents. We have decided for this Academic Year to send out a brief update following our meetings, keeping you informed about the things we are looking at and discussing. Minutes of our meetings should be available on the LGB section of the School website, so if you want more information, please have a read, and if you have any questions, do get in touch.

LGB Meetings

We have set the dates for this Academic Year, and are planning 10 meetings in total, although one in each term will be more of an internal training evening rather than a full Governors meeting. I was once again privileged to be elected to Chair the LGB, with Steve Dawson elected as Vice-chair. We also looked at various Governor roles and responsibilities and sought to set out clearly a plan for the year. Our hope is that in planning the year ahead as we have, and working on clear Agenda's, we can make the meetings more efficient and enable Governors to work out their time commitment. At the moment, our meetings remain online.

Governor Recruitment

It was encouraging to have one potential new Governor with us for our first meeting of the year, and a Parent express an interest. We have also received interest from a couple of staff members, so we are moving towards full capacity. We currently have vacancies for 2 Parent Governors, 2 Trust appointed Governors and 1 Staff Governor – but if the above interest turns into actual appointments, we will still be looking for 1 Parent and 1 Trust appointed Governor.

If you would like to chat about the role of the Governors and what this might mean in terms of time commitment, I would be delighted to arrange a phone call, online chat, or a socially distanced meeting in time. Drop me an email at the address at the end of this letter.

Building works Update

We are delighted with the work done to the school site over the summer by the Trust and Tarmac and have written to both expressing our thanks for their work on our behalf.

The School Development Plan

This document provides a framework to identify priorities for current and future development of the School in a range of areas, which becomes a guide for the school as a whole – the SLT, Staff, Governors and wider community, to shape the development of Fen Ditton Primary School.

The Governors role is to monitor this progress, and we spent some time at our last meeting, and have set some time aside on Monday 12th October, to think through how we might best do that

this year in the current context we find ourselves in. This work will be particularly important in preparing us for the expected Ofsted visit, which may be as soon as the Spring term, although so much is unsure. We want to, and need to be, ready when the call does come.

Opening up of the School

It was pleasing to hear how well the staff, pupils and parents were doing in settling into the new pattern. It was also encouraging to hear a report from a visit conducted by Mrs Prue Rayner from Anglian Learning who spoke extremely highly of the opening up of the school and the atmosphere around the school.

It was also pleasing to hear that, on the whole, the new arrangements regarding the Layby outside the school were being observed, making things so much simpler for those Blue badge holders. Thank you to all of you who have made adjustments to your routines to enable this to happen, but please do continue to be considerate about where you park in the other areas around the school.

We also identified Staff well-being as a significant issue for us to continue to monitor through the year (*Incidentally, this was also a topic of discussion at a recent Trust meeting I attended.*) The Staff, especially the SLT, worked extremely hard through the summer making sure the School was Covid-secure and that all of the Government guidance was implemented. If they continue to work at the same level, it will be a very long year and we need to be aware of how we can take as much pressure of them as we can, while not dropping our standards.

There is so much that remains unclear about this year, but we believe the school is well-placed to respond, but also to be pro-active in working to give your children the best education we can.

As always, if there is anything I can help with, or you wish to contact me about anything, my details are below.

Rev Stuart Wood (chair@fendittonprimary.org / 07770 792371)

Chair of Governors (on behalf of the LGB)

September 2020