

Greenfields Primary School

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

January 2018



The Governing Body is pleased to bring you this second Governors' Newsletter which is part of our plan to strengthen the communication and links between governors, staff, parents and children. These newsletters and the minutes of the Governing Body meetings are published on the school website.

Membership of the Governing Body

We are pleased to welcome two new members to the Governing Body, both of whom come with strong educational credentials: Debbie Hartley from Harrow College, and Niall McManus who is the Deputy Headteacher at Northwood School.

Leaving the GB after many years of dedicated service is Carol Prior, who taught many of your children in Nursery and was the Early Years Leader. The GB is hugely appreciative of Carol's contributions in both these capacities.

Update on School Premises

The governors have submitted two bids for significant capital funding to Hertfordshire County Council for major refurbishment projects to the school's premises.

The first of these relates to the 40+ year old boiler and heating system which is now reaching the end of its serviceable life and requires replacement with modern more efficient designs within the next few years.

The second is for complete replacement and upgrading of all the windows and

doors which are original, dating from 1951. This project is complicated by the Grade II listed status of the school. Nevertheless we have obtained preliminary Listed Building Consent from Three Rivers DC for this project, and funding from Hertfordshire to perform the detailed engineering design. Double glazing will dramatically improve the internal environment and, when combined with new boilers, should substantially reduce the school's energy costs.



Nursery Admissions

Admissions to Nurseries have traditionally been managed by local County Councils, however this responsibility is being devolved to schools, starting from the 2018-2019 school year. Greenfields, like all primary schools, has therefore developed its own Nursery Admissions Policy. This will shortly be posted on the school website.

Finances

Most of you will be aware that school finances across the country are becoming ever more strained. It is the governors' role to oversee and provide independent assurance that school funds are spent appropriately. This inevitably means making some difficult decisions about priorities, for example the subsidy of some

onsite and offsite activities which the school can no longer afford.

The governors would like to thank FOGS for arranging the excellent Christmas Fair and for their continuing support to the school, including subsidizing the pantomime trip, buying classroom resources and making sure all children have Christmas and Easter treats.

The Biodome

The governors are taking a keen interest in the use of the biodome and to that end have arranged for the school's Eco Council to participate in the Eastbury Horticultural Society's Annual Show on July 14th 2018. The intent is for the children to grow and display an impressive basket of vegetables, the planting of which has already begun.



The Governors' Cup for Good Citizenship

In the previous term the governors introduced a new and prestigious award for children who have consistently demonstrated exemplary conduct and behaviour and, as such, act as role models for other children across the school.



The cup will continue to be awarded termly and is open to all the children.

Nominations are made by the class teachers for consideration by the Governing Body.

Our latest winner is shown below: many congratulations to Grace Buckingham.



Grace receiving the Governors' Cup from the Chair

How to Contact Governors

We are always happy to receive constructive feedback and comments from parents, for example by dropping a note into the school office. Alternatively, the current Chair of Governors, David Ray, is in the school all day every Friday and would be pleased to meet for a chat.