

Greenfields Primary School

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

April 2018



The Governing Body is pleased to bring you this latest Governors' Newsletter which is part of our plan to strengthen the communication and links between the governors and the 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

Leaving the GB after many years of dedicated service is Larry Bowerman. The GB is very appreciative of Larry's contributions and wish him well.

Three of our governors come from local schools, being Northwood School, York House and Merchant Taylors'. These important links to Greenfields help us in several ways, including our curriculum, access to their facilities and participation in organized events, e.g. the MT's Science Event in May to be attended by our Year 5.

Update on School Premises

The school has been visited by a project engineer from Hertfordshire CC Building Services Team and a technical representative from a specialist aluminium window company. The purpose was to develop drawings of the proposed layout of replacement double glazed windows and doors for submission to Three Rivers DC for full Listed Building Consent. Samples of the proposed designs will also be made for approval by the local authority.

School Website

The school website has been completely rebuilt and we hope you will add it to your "favourites". It is fully compliant with regulations that dictate the information the school must publish. However there is one item we will need some help from Year 6 parents later in the summer term. We are, from this year, now required to publish by the end of the school year the swimming competency of our year 6 children.

www.greenfields.herts.sch.uk

Finances

The school's budget for the next financial year will be set on May 2nd. You may be aware that the government is introducing a new National Funding Formula which is intended to more fairly allocate school funding around the country. To help schools transition to the formula, there will be a 'soft' version used in the next two years, where funding will still be channelled through Local Authorities. We don't expect this to have a major impact on our budget; this will remain very tight and will place limits on what activities the school can afford to provide as opposed

to having to ask parents / carers to support.

Environmental Protection

The governors and staff have developed a new set of statements relating to environmental protection. This describes our responsibilities, current practices and future aspirations in terms of our curriculum, control of consumables, waste management, use of energy and water, use of chemicals, transport and looking after our wonderful outdoor space.

These statements also set the overall agenda for our Eco-Council and provide the children with direction for projects they can develop and own. One such project will require your help if you provide your children with packed lunches. The Eco-Council will be launching a new concept of "Plastic-free Fridays", the intent of which is to greatly reduce the amount of single-use plastics the school has to send to landfill.

The Eco-Council will also implement and monitor waste food recycling by the local authority. The photo below of one of their waste collection trucks gives an indication of the size of the prize.



Data Protection

The new General Data Protection Regulations come into effect in May. These regulations will have some impact on the school which we will communicate to you nearer the time. Meanwhile we are

developing a new Data Protection Policy to describe how we will achieve compliance.

The Governors' Cup for Good Citizenship

Last year 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.

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 Emiley Axtell from Y 5.



Emiley 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.