

# Greenfields Primary School

## GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

September 2018



The Governing Board 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 Board meetings are published on the school website.

### **Headteacher**

We wrote to you towards the end of the summer term explaining the arrangements we were putting in place following Mrs Cook's decision to retire. We are delighted to welcome David Smith to Greenfields in the role of interim head. We are fortunate to have secured his services, given his long experience in local primary schools and his familiarity with the South Oxhey environment.

During the summer the governors have been working with Hertfordshire to start the recruitment process for a new substantive Headteacher. Advertising of the post began in August with interviews of the shortlisted candidates scheduled for early October.

### **Teaching Staff**

The governors are pleased to welcome Mrs Annabella Fernando to teach Reception and Miss Kate Wilkins to teach Year 1. As always, we look forward to your support for these new staff members as they settle into their roles.

### **Update on School Premises**

Drawings of the proposed layout of replacement double glazed windows and doors have been submitted to Three Rivers DC for full Listed Building Consent, along with samples of the proposed designs.

We have also commissioned several proposals to replace all the school's fluorescent lighting with LED. This project will be discussed at the next Governing Board meeting later this month. Interest-free government loans are available to fund energy-efficient projects like this where the cost of the loan repayments is fully offset by electricity savings.

### **Ofsted Inspection**

You'll be aware from Mrs Cook's final letter to you on 20<sup>th</sup> July that the report of our Ofsted inspection in early July painted a mixed picture.

Whilst safeguarding and our Early Years were both rated as "good", the need for improvements in other areas was highlighted. Some of these improvements have already been put in place and, of course, the school will have a modified Improvement Plan to address other outstanding issues. Monitoring the progress on the implementation of this plan represents a key role for the Governing Board.

As mentioned by Mrs Cook, it was unfortunate that the inspection took place a week before our SATS results were released. These results showed the school had made great strides against the new curriculum tests and had achieved results broadly at national level.

### **Pupil Attendance**

One of the most disappointing areas requiring improvement highlighted by the Ofsted inspection is pupil attendance which is well below national average and failing to meet the minimum target of 95%. This situation is clearly unacceptable.

The Senior Leadership Team and the governors will be urgently reviewing the current attendance monitoring and intervention practices, and a more rigorous approach in the future can be anticipated.

### **Eco Council**

The children harvested fruit and vegetables grown in and around the bio-dome and arranged these into a wonderful display. This basket of produce won a special commendation of excellence at the Eastbury Horticultural Society Annual Show.



### **Data Protection**

The new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into effect in May. The requisite school Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices have been put in place. One of our Parent Governors, Mr Jose Tamayo, has kindly taken up the role of our Data Protection Officer.

### **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 Caitlin Belcher from Y5.



Caitlin 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.