

Fen Ditton Community Primary School Local Governing Body (LGB) Update – May 2021

Dear Parents,

Here is a brief update following our most recent LGB meeting at the end of April.

Pupil Premium

The School is required to report on Pupil Premium spending and more importantly, how the spending is impacting on the education of the pupils. To help the Governors assess this and review the current plans and priorities, they were joined by Mrs Hearn, the school's Pupil Premium lead, to share with us the data from across the school.

Mrs Hearn has been with the school since September, and it has been challenging for her with the school not being able to operate fully and then the most recent lockdown. However, she has met regularly with all the teaching staff to review the pupils and understand their current attainment and progress and to track this across the school. A new system in place will better enable this to be consistent and monitored more effectively.

She took the Governors through the range of interventions currently being used across the school to help pupils. It was encouraging to see all the hard work that is going on and to hear how progress is being seen.

We will continue to monitor this area and hope to see the data reflect the hard work being put in by all the staff.

Head's Update

Mr Askew updated the Governors on recent developments – the end of last term, how the start to the new term had gone, additions to the staffing team to strengthen the existing team, training and development for staff.

He also outlined, ahead of the budget being set for the 2021/22 Academic Year, how things are currently looking financially and areas that he is aware of which will need to be looked at carefully. There has been an increase in costs over the last year associated with Covid – additional cleaning, and staffing costs as a result of internal cover/deployment due to bubble restrictions.

Governor Matters

We continue to work at refining our work as an LGB – we introduced a slightly modified Agenda, we are planning a review of the LGB in July, an away day in the Autumn, training, and embedding new Governors effectively. One of the areas we will be getting trained in, is with regards to E-Safety – as we seek to ensure the school is compliant and providing the right level of information about keeping our children safe online.

We continue to work with the Trust, and we will be beginning to hold discussions with them about the new Marleigh School, with a planned opening of September 2022.

One of the Governors reported on a Virtual visit he had completed with Teaching staff looking at the effectiveness of the online teaching. Overall, it was very pleasing what had been achieved and how the staff had embraced the new challenges.

There are two LGB meetings left this Academic year – June (when we will be considering the Budget for 2021/22 and reviewing the school's curriculum policy); and then in July when we aim to draw things to a conclusion for the year, assess and review how our meetings have been going and look at how we can be even more effective moving into the new Academic Year.

We are extremely aware of the impact on Staff wellbeing of the incredible extra load that the staff have had to bear since last March with very little downtime over these past 12 months. We also recognised that the summer term is a long term, and this will also have its challenges.

We received an update on the latest news from the Save Honey Hill campaign about the relocation of the waste water treatment plant. (<https://www.savehoneyhill.org/>)

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)

May 2021