

Governors' Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

In this term's newsletter we introduce our new co-opted community governors, give you an overview of what the governors have been working on, and want to remind everyone about the importance of E-safety and the need for partnership between parents and school in this area.

We are also looking for Associate members to support the governing body in a number of areas, do get in touch if you are interested in finding out more.

We are also very proud to be able to share the external recognition regarding the KS2 progress results for 2015.

Finally, spring has arrived and Easter is just around the corner so I would like to wish everyone a restful Easter break this year.

Simone Tyson (Chair of Governors)

Truly Outstanding Key Stage 2 Progress

In January 2016 the school received a letter from the Head of Achievement for Primary Schools at our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner Service Provider, **congratulating everyone** connected with Chorleywood Primary School, **but most of all the children**, on the **truly outstanding** Key Stage 2 progress measures for our school in 2015.

*"To reach or exceed the national median levels for progress in all three areas of reading, writing and mathematics is a **significant achievement** and reflects the **good and outstanding teaching** the children are enjoying in your school."*

They went on to praise the leadership Mrs. Roberts, brings to the school and the importance of recognising this, at a time where there are so many external pressures on schools.

*"Thank you for your **resilience** and **determination** in ensuring the children in your school receive **the very best educational start we can possibly give them.**"*

Stakeholder Feedback

It is very important for us to understand the views of all of our stakeholders at Chorleywood Primary School. In the autumn term we conducted a parent voice survey. There are regular pupil voice surveys on topics throughout the year. At present we are developing a staff voice survey to be conducted in the summer term, in which, we will be asking all school staff for their feedback.

Grant Successes

We wanted to share and celebrate the successful work of **Claire Davies**, our School Grounds Coordinator, who has yet again secured grant funds from Caterlink for a **Kitchen Garden**. Recently she also secured a **donation of trees** to be planted in the school grounds. Grants and donations are a fantastic source of support for the school and we are very grateful for the time and effort she has put into this!

STRIVING FOR OUTSTANDING

During 2015, we introduced a process to discuss not only the statutory requirements but also a vision for the future and have imbedded a set of "Strategy Meetings" to our annual calendar.

As part of the school development plan this year we have created a focus on outstanding school governance. We have undertaken a number of things including:

- ❖ **Parent Voice:** this was completed last term and the results have been reviewed, an action plan created and we will share the action plan with parents shortly.
- ❖ **Annual Skills Audit:** We have completed our annual process for our governing body to identify any skills gaps we may have that we may need to fill.
 - You will see on page 3 that we are looking for Associate Members particularly (but not exclusively) with specific skills to support the governing body
- ❖ **Training and Continued Professional Development:** As a governing body we have undertaken a training audit and are reviewing governor training plans to ensure we keep up to date with current best practice.
- ❖ **Community Links:** We have continued to increase links with other local primary and secondary schools at the governing body level having termly meetings with the Chair of Governors at Christ Church, The Russell School and St Clement Danes.
- ❖ **Governor Visits:** Link Governors have been undertaking their visits to school to monitor progress against specific target areas.
- ❖ **Policies & Procedures:** A big part of governance relates to policies, procedures and ensuring things are up to date. Department for Education Guidance changes regularly. We have reviewed various school policies and parents have been invited to join this process.
- ❖ **Starting Planning for Ofsted:** Ofsted visits are generally every 3 years and our last visit from Ofsted was in 2013/14 therefore we are reviewing all of the assessment criteria to ensure that we are striving for outstanding across all aspects of the school.

E-Safety

E-safety is hugely important for everyone in society not just in a school environment but the relevance in our school was noted in Mrs. Roberts last Head teacher's update letter

We urge parents and carers to work in partnership with the school in this area to ensure that we keep our children safe online.

For more information and guidance please see the schools' website.

www.chorleywood.herts.sch.uk/parents/e_safety.html



How to contact the school leadership and management

For any day to day questions, queries or concerns you may have relating to your child please liaise with your class teacher.

If you would like to discuss something that relates to the school, but not your child specifically, you can also talk to your class teacher, or it may be appropriate to contact the school office.

If you have a concern that is not addressed through either of these means then please speak to the school office to be able to arrange to talk to Mrs Roberts.

Mrs Roberts often welcomes both students and parents into school in the mornings and is accessible if you have queries.

If you were to need to contact the governing body please do this via the school office.

Changes in the Governing Body

This year we have seen some further changes within our Governing Body and we welcome some new faces on board. We have recruited two new community co-opted governors.

New Co-opted Governor: Pete Adi

Pete is an economist and worked in consultancy for a number of years. He currently works in the public sector in an operational role with responsibilities for risk assessment/management, in-depth analysis and investigation. He has an interest in both volunteering and education and wanted to get involved in the local community.

New Co-opted Governor: Angela Taylor

Angela moved to Chorleywood around 3 years ago and is a qualified General and Paediatric nurse as well as holding an adult education teaching certificate and now works in a commercial role. Angela has been a school governor in the past. She has been involved in organizing fund raising activities and overseeing building and expansion projects.

Associate Members on the Governing Body

The governing body can appoint associate members to serve on one or more governing body committee and attend full governing body meetings.

The definition of associate member is broad and pupils, school staff and anyone the governing body feels could contribute to its work can be appointed as associate members (e.g. to fill specialist skills for short term projects).

Associates are:

- Appointed for between one and four years (can be reappointed at the end of their term of office)
- Not eligible to vote on the full governing body (may be granted voting rights at a committee level)
- Not governors and are not included in the school's Instrument of Government

Are you interested in becoming an Associate Member?

Can you help us with any of the skills/role below?

Please contact the office by Friday 11th March.

- Premises & Facilities Management / Health & Safety
- Human Resources / IT
- Special Educational Needs
- Fulfilling short term project work
- Grants Coordinator

Governor page

The school website has a wealth of useful information included on it and the governors' area is being developed so you can find more about the school governors from their profiles.

Parent Voice Feedback

During the Autumn term we undertook a parent survey and we communicated some of key results from that before Christmas via a leaflet in the school book bags. The high level results can also be found on the school website.

Thank you again for your feedback, we really appreciate hearing your views. It is really important to us to hear what our parents think!

Action Plan

An Action plan has been created from the feedback received from parents. This was reviewed by the Governing Body at our strategy meeting in February.

Some of the actions are now in place in the spring term, for example, new half termly targets newsletters, giving information about the topics covered in that half term with a section for personal targets specific to each child.

We will shortly be sharing the action plan showing responses / actions taken.