

# GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2016

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Several months on from our Information Evening last autumn, it is time for an update from your governing body. This newsletter was originally due for issue in the Spring Term but Easter sprung upon us after a half term lasting just four weeks!

## ***Welcomes and Farewells***

We are delighted to welcome Nick Wilson and Keith Groen to the team as new Parent Governors. Nick joins the Resources Committee and Keith will sit on Performance & Standards. Richard Price, who represented the non-teaching staff, also left his post in January. We would like to express our thanks to Richard for his hard work as caretaker and his input to the governing body over the last few years. Our hope is to appoint a new non-teaching governor later this term.

## ***Ethos and Christian Values***

The Governors monitor the school's adherence to its Christian foundation and the School Ethos. The school selects a different Christian value for study each term and recently, we were delighted to see a presentation from Year 6 children on ways they have learned about *Wisdom* through Collective Worship and class work. Pupils can also volunteer to lead *Wednesday Worship*; children of all ages want to get involved and there was a six-week waiting list for the next slot.

Governors also attended Prayer Club last month. Prayer Club happens on a Friday morning in the Heads' office and is usually led by Julie Gibbins. The children are invited to join together and share their prayers, either aloud or silently, and they demonstrated insight and emotional intelligence well beyond their years; it was an uplifting experience and quite heartwarming.

## ***Safeguarding of staff recruitment***

Last term, we were delighted to welcome new members of staff into the school - Sean Dent as the new Caretaker and Alison Byrne as the new Administrative Assistant. Governors are involved in the recruitment process for all new staff and once a shortlist of candidates for any role has been made, the Safeguarding Governor reviews applications to ensure that there are no unexplained gaps in history, or any anomalies which may require further investigation. The School Business Manager is informed of the findings prior to interviews going ahead.

## ***Annual Parents' Survey***

Later this term, please look out for the annual Parents' Survey.

Part 1 of the survey consists of some standard questions, which are aligned with the way OFSTED evaluate the school; 'Part 2' will ask for comments that you are happy to put your name to and there will be an option to meet with a Governor to further express concerns or highlight areas of strength.

The survey is a key measure of parents' satisfaction and gives us a snapshot of the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the school. The results are a key input to the school's self-evaluation form (SEF) and help drive strategic priorities.

We hope you will find a few minutes to complete the questionnaire and thank you in advance for your time!

## ***New School Building/Hot School Meals***

In Spring 2015, we were granted capital funding for new kitchen facilities. Since then, we have been working with the local authority to advance the project but progress has proven very slow over the last few months. We continue to drive the agenda with Warwickshire County Council and Nick Wilson has kindly agreed to lead this project to ensure there are no unnecessary delays.

## ***Academy Conversion***

Academies are back in the news since George Osborne included the policy in his March budget speech: the government intends that all schools will become academies by 2020 or have official plans to do so by 2022. As stated by the government, academies are *"publicly funded independent schools that get money direct from the government, not the local council. Academies are run by an academy trust, which employs the staff"*. In general, Primary Schools are encouraged to convert as part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) rather than individual trusts.

As far as Hampton Lucy is concerned, the Governors undertook an extensive evaluation in 2013 and decided against academy conversion at that time – largely because local MATs were not sufficiently mature.

The situation is reviewed regularly and at this February's Full Governors meeting, we agreed to defer any action for a further year. That said, we remain fully engaged with both the Diocesan Board of Education and our partner schools within the Kineton Learning Community regarding any suitable opportunities that may arise.

If you have any questions or concerns about academy conversion or anything else covered in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of the governors – either in the playground or via email at [governors.hamptonlucyschool@gmail.com](mailto:governors.hamptonlucyschool@gmail.com).