

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

Dear Parents,

Following our LGB meeting at the start of the week, here is a bit of an update of what we discussed and what we are working on. Can I remind you that minutes of our meetings, once approved, are available on the LGB section of the School website, so if you want more information, please have a read, and if you have any questions, do get in touch.

Governor Recruitment

We have submitted a request to the Anglian Learning Trustees for them to approve two new Trust appointed Governors. Both prospective Governors attended again on Monday evening and are keen to be involved with the school and the LGB.

I wrote to you back in November inviting nominations for the role of Parent Governor. We received one nomination, **Chris Lindley**, and as he was unopposed, at Monday's meeting, he was appointed to serve on the LGB.

After the last meeting in December, I received the resignation of Sabina Niemier as a Trust Appointed Governor, due to work commitments. Sabina works for PWC as a qualified accountant and was our Finance Governor. Since receiving her resignation, we have found one of her colleagues who lives locally who attended on Monday with a view to taking on this role.

We are really pleased with how the LGB is now shaping up - we now only have two vacancies, one for the Finance Governor mentioned above. We have an evening scheduled on 1st March for some Training and a review of our progress as an LGB in monitoring the School's Development Plan. Our aim is to work hard to support these new Governors to find their feet, settle in, and for the LGB to be in a strong position at the start of the next Academic year with Governors who understand their roles.

We are always keen to keep an eye on the future development of the LGB and there is provision for us to have Associate Governors, which is a great way to find out more and grow into the role. If you would like to chat about the role of the Governors and what this might mean in terms of time commitment, I would be delighted to arrange a phone call, online chat, or a socially distanced meeting in time. Drop me an email at the address at the end of this letter.

Review of the Current Situation

Mr Askew talked Governors through all that had happened since our last meeting and outlined the current provision. The LGB explored with Mr Askew this provision and the challenges the current levels of pupil numbers were having on staffing and the wider impact on the school community.

The LGB agreed unanimously to support Mr Askew if he needed to contact parents to ask them not to send their children to school due to having to reduce pupil numbers or to change the provision for some families. As a body, we recognised that it was not an ideal situation, but recognised how well Mr Askew had led the school through the pandemic thus far, and at every step had sought to do the best thing for the whole school community, even though it had meant some difficult decisions. The LGB also expressed to Mr Askew, and asked it to be passed on, their very grateful thanks to all the staff for how they had responded to the difficult circumstances. The staff Governors present expressed their thanks to Mr Askew & Miss James.

The LGB also discussed and agreed with the view of Mr Askew that we may need to temporarily increase our staffing levels to aid the recovery after the lockdown eases. This would be kept under review.

Policy Review

The new **Curriculum Policy** was brought back to the meeting having been tweaked and honed by staff and subject leads following December's LGB meeting. Miss James and the staff were thanked for their hard work on this, and the LGB agreed to bring this back for review in June each year.

The new **Relationships Education Policy, including Sex Education Policy**, was presented to the LGB by Miss Clough, who has been leading on the writing and implementation of this policy. She talked the LGB through the various communications with parents. The LGB agreed the policy and thanked Miss Clough for her hard work in writing this policy.

Risk Register

As part of our ongoing assessment of the current position of the school, and in line with other Anglian Learning Academies, the LGB reviewed the school's Risk Register in relation to its curriculum. This document will be reviewed at each meeting, with ongoing discussion about different areas of the school.

We remain committed to being open and transparent, as we are able, with parents and the school community. We agreed to hold a Parent Forum on **Thursday 11th March at 7pm** (which will be online), before which we will be issuing a Parent Survey.

We were greatly encouraged to hear of developments in the building of relationships with the local villages of Fen Ditton & Horningsea, and with Abbey People.

There has been a lot of hard work that has been put in by staff, governors, parents and children alike and we want to thank you all for your partnership as we seek to provide the best education we can for your children.

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)

January 2021