

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

Dear Parents,

We've very nearly made it to the end of term. Thank you for all that you have done to support the staff in helping to make the school as safe as we can. I know it has been really tough and decisions have had to be made that no one wanted to make. At our latest governors' meeting last week, we were really pleased to see that attendance at Fen Ditton has been higher than the national average this term, despite all the challenges that we have faced. Thank you to you all.

Governor Matters

We have met 4 times this term as an LGB. We held meetings at the start and end of term, and alongside these we also had a training and monitoring evening, and a Saturday morning away day to think about the school's vision and where the school should be in 3-5 years' time.

We have agreed as an LGB how we plan to monitor the Improvement Plan for this year; we have reviewed our SEND provision and the new nurture space – can we put on record, our thanks to Miss James and the team for making this happen; we have continued our oversight of the school and have been working hard to fully embed our new governors into the LGB. We are very aware that we are overdue an Ofsted inspection and so continue to prepare ourselves for when that time comes. One of our number has been working hard on getting our policies up to date which should make them easier to keep on top of and reviewed appropriately.

We have been joined this term by Miriam Ferrer as an Associate Governor – a great way to be involved and learn the ropes, while not carrying extra responsibility as a full member of the Governing Body. We are always on the look out for any potential governors, and if you think this is something you would be interested in, I'm happy to talk about this with you. We always invite potential governors to observe a meeting as part of trying to understand the role. If you would like to know more, please get in touch. At the start of the term, we set out our aim to make the LGB more representative of our community and we are still keen for that to happen and so we are particularly looking for those for whom English is not their first language as this will help us be more reflective on our current practices and more inclusive moving forwards.

Marleigh Primary Academy

We have been asked to offer support to establishing the Local Governing Body for the new Academy opening on the Marleigh development. This means that I will be serving as Chair of Governors (alongside remaining Chair of Governors at Fen Ditton), and two of our governors are being seconded across to work alongside me there. Our first meeting is scheduled for 10th January 2022, and we are going to be recruiting from the local community. It is exciting to see how this new Academy will be able to work with Fen Ditton to the benefit of both.

Parent Forum

We haven't been able to hold a Parent Forum this term – there have simply been too many variables that we have been trying to manage. However, we are planning one for the Spring Term and we will get a date out early in the new term.

Can I put on record our thanks to Mr Askew and his team for their hard work and dedication through a challenging term. We know the start of 2022 is likely to present more challenges, and we therefore would continue to ask that you support them in order to help make the school the safest place possible for you and your children. Can I urge you to take on board and adhere to the advice and protocols regarding Covid. Putting others first sometimes means we do things that aren't perhaps our preference but are for the benefit of the wider community.

Can I also ask you to remember that the layby has been designated as a place for drop-offs by those who have a blue badge, or pre-arranged permission from the school office. I know as the weather is likely to not be good some days, the temptation is there to use the layby – please respect the decision taken a couple of years back. It makes the staff's days so much easier and better when we all pull together.

May I finally wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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)

December 2021