

Fen Ditton Community Primary School Local Governing Body (LGB) Update – December 2022

Dear Parents,

What a week it has been – as I'm sat writing this, less than a week ago, there was not a hint of snow, just really cold frosty weather. And then things changed Sunday night and we woke Monday to a blanket of the white stuff. Thank you to you all for your support of the staff as they have sought to navigate through this week, with plans needing to change and adapt at short notice. The Carol Service, while not at Fen Ditton Parish Church, nonetheless still carried the essential ingredients to make it a special occasion – thanks to all involved, especially Mrs Rogan.

Governor Matters

We joined with the LGB at Marleigh Primary Academy in November for a training evening, where we were joined by some of the Anglian Learning central team to give us some input as to what good governance looks like. It was a useful evening. On the back of that, we invited the AL Head of Governance Support, Compliance and Risk to our December meeting to observe and offer some feedback as to how we could be better, which we will be discussing at our January meeting – we continually strive to be the best we can be.

Also at our December meeting, we were joined by Mr Parker to talk us through his approach to PE and active learning. We have asked him to come to our next Parent Forum to share with parents this exciting philosophy and approach – more on that a bit later.

We were also joined by Miss James as we looked at our SEND policy and provision. It is always helpful having staff to talk us through the areas that they are involved with, and it helps us get a fuller appreciation of the work they do and the effort that they put in, often behind the scenes.

We formally said goodbye to Layla Skinns as she completed her time as a governor. We are so grateful that she was willing to stay on this term and help the transition for our new Safeguarding governor.

A reminder of our Governing body as it currently is: -

Trust Appointed Governors: Stuart Wood (Chair), Liz Harrison (Vice-Chair), Simon Wall, Henry James, Xav Castelino, Lindsay Davies, Paula Bishop

Parent Governors: Chris Lindley, Miriam Ferrer

Staff Governors: Mr Askew (Head), Mrs Tabram

Clerk: Stuart Hales

Parent Forum

At our Parent Forum held on **Thursday 1st December**, we had a talk by **Chloe Newell and Louise Willerton** from Cambridge City Council's Community Safety Team, about county lines and they showed a short film, entitled "**Cambs Against County Lines**". It was very powerful, and a really helpful discussion followed. It was slightly disappointing that more parents weren't able to be

with us, but we appreciate the late notice that was given. We have been in touch to see if they would be willing to come back to our next Parent Forum and repeat the presentation.

We also had a presentation from Miss James and Mrs Parker about the STEPS approach to behaviour management used by the school, which again those in attendance found helpful. They will be looking to provide more opportunity to parents to understand the approach and how parents can work with the school to affirm the messages given in school.

Our next Parent Forum is on **Thursday 16th March 2023** at 7pm. As mentioned earlier, we will be joined by Mr Parker, and we also hope to have a follow-up/repeat of the County Lines presentation. For now, please do mark this date in your diaries.

School Vision

We continue to work on shaping the vision for the school and will be doing some work on this as Governors at our meeting in February.

Layby

It has been brought to my attention that the use of the layby has become a bit of a challenge again. Can I take this opportunity to remind you all that a few years ago, we suggested to parents that the layby be kept clear to be used only by those who have a blue badge, or who have special permission from the school office to use this to help with drop off and pick up. We do not have powers to enforce this but are really asking you to work with staff and children to stick to this suggestion for the safety of all concerned.

Parents, can I urge you to respect this. If you leave home those few minutes earlier, it takes the pressure off the need to park outside the school and will enable you to park safely in the High Street and walk those few minutes to school – it does make such a difference to the staff and the safety of the children, and gets the day off to a good and productive start.

As has been mentioned previously, we are always keen to talk about our work and discuss opportunities for parents to get involved. We have had associate governors with us previously, which gives a good opportunity to learn more about what is involved by attending meetings, while not taking on any specific responsibilities. If you would be interested in talking this through, do get in touch with me and I would be happy to make that happen to suit you.

A reminder that all approved minutes are put in the school website in the Governance area. As always, if there is anything further I can help with, or you wish to contact me about anything, my details are below.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for this Christmas and New Year season. Can I put on record our thanks to the staff for all their hard work this term, your children for being such great students, and you as parents for your continued support of the school.

Rev Stuart Wood (chair@fendittonprimary.org / 07770 792371)

Chair of Governors (on behalf of the LGB)

December 2022