

## Fen Ditton Community Primary School Local Governing Body (LGB) Update – July 2023

Dear Parents,

I can't quite believe that another year is nearly finished. From my perspective, it feels like it has flown by. I know we are in the middle of the busy end of year period with so many events and activities. Thank you for your support of the staff and pupils. I haven't been able to make the production this week, but I hear that the children did amazingly well, supported and encouraged by the staff. Thank you. You should all be very proud of yourselves.

### Governor Matters

This term we have had three LGB meetings, culminating in a meeting on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July when we were able to look back over the year and review how the year had gone. It has been a challenging year, and in some ways the progress and development that we planned for last September hasn't been realised as we thought back then. A year in the life of the school is a long time, and a lot can change, and very quickly too.

However, a lot of hard work has been done to establish new systems, develop our understanding of the direction of the school and sets the school up to build on all of this as we head into another year, whilst navigating a range of difficult issues along the way. We believe this work places the school in a strong position to develop and build and continue to progress. We expressed our gratitude to the staff, led so well by our Senior Leadership Team under Mr Askew's headship, for all that they have done to continue to provide the best environment for the children of Fen Ditton Primary School.

As is always the case, our LGB has changed during the course of the year, and we are anticipating more changes next year too. We are therefore always looking for potential governors to join us and are always keen to talk with anyone 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, although as mentioned later on this would need to be in the second half of the Autumn term.

A reminder, then, 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)

Clerk: Stuart Hales

May I take this opportunity to thank all of the Governors for their hard work and commitment in supporting the school through this past year.

## **Parent Forum**

We had planned a Parent Forum for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July. However, due to the need to postpone Sports Day due to the weather, and with this moving to the afternoon of 6<sup>th</sup>, followed by the Summer Fair, we felt that a Parent Forum after all of that was going to be too much. It has meant that we haven't managed one this term, because after 6<sup>th</sup> July, we simply ran out of evenings available with all of the rest of the end of year activities.

However, I have had a number of parents get in touch with me over recent weeks to do with a number of matters and I always appreciate parents taking the time to get in touch. Thank you.

A reminder that all approved minutes are put on 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 thank all staff for all their hard work this year. Particular thanks to Mr Askew and Miss James. We wish Mr Askew well as he goes on secondment to Bottisham Primary School, and we know that you will all give your support to Miss James as she steps up as Acting Head. We have absolute confidence in the team that is in place for 2023/24 to continue to lead the school forward, and Miss James and the team will have the full support of the LGB.

We have had regular contact with the Central team from Anglian Learning who will continue to offer their support to Fen Ditton. We have appreciated their help in many ways, much of which probably goes unnoticed. I, for one, am very grateful to be part of a Trust that supports and encourages collaboration, but also gives permission for each school to develop its own unique identity.

For the first half of the Autumn term, I will be away on sabbatical. Liz Harrison will be covering for me, and she will receive any emails that get sent to the 'Chair@' address, so you can contact her that way. I will be back early November and plan to continue to serve the school as Chair from then.

Finally, may I also take this opportunity to wish all of our leaving students the very best as they move on, and to their parents, thank you for your support during your time at the school. For all of you, may you have a restful summer break.

Rev Stuart Wood ([chair@fendittonprimary.org](mailto:chair@fendittonprimary.org) / 07770 792371)

Chair of Governors (on behalf of the LGB)

July 2023