

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

Dear Parents,

As we draw towards the end of the Spring term, can I express our thanks to the staff who have done an amazing job to keep things ticking over this term. In all my 14 years as a governor at the school, this term must rank as one of the most challenging. There have been many extra demands that the staff have had to face and deal with, alongside the daily pressures of working in education. We have been reminded of the pressure on staff and the impact on their wellbeing through the tragic events surrounding Ruth Perry taking her own life after an Ofsted inspection at her school in Reading. Headteachers and leaders in our school carry such a weight of responsibility; Teachers are under incredible pressure managing their workload; Teaching Assistants and Support Staff are facing daily challenges managing the needs of the children in our school. All of them want to give their very best so that your children have the best education they possibly can. Collectively, we can all do our bit to help, encourage and support them.

Can I therefore take this opportunity to remind parents of the decision taken a few years back that the layby outside the school only be used by those who have blue badges or those granted special permission by the school office. If you think you qualify for special permission, do contact the office. I cannot begin to tell you how not following this advice impacts staff. I have been into school just after the start of the day, and staff are already struggling due to parents not following this decision. Honouring the decision to keep the layby usage as outlined above has multiple benefits; not following it has a significant detrimental impact on staff and the wider community. Can I urge you, to stop and think about how your actions impact on others – and give yourselves those few extra minutes to park in the High Street and walk to the school gate, please. Thank you.

Governor Matters

We have had a busy term with 3 meetings, one of which was given over to considering the vision of the school for the next 3-5 years. It is intended to have this in a form to present to parents in the second half of the summer term at the next Parent Forum (see below).

We were joined by Mrs Parker at our March meeting as she outlined the work she has been doing providing coaching for teachers. This work began with Miss Parker (as she was then!) and Mrs Hearn but picked up by Mrs Parker when Mrs Hearn went off on maternity leave. We wish Mrs Parker well as she heads off on Maternity leave herself soon, and we will welcome Mrs Hearn back to pick up some of this work again. It was encouraging to hear the feedback of staff to this approach.

Governors continue to get in to school to conduct visits, meet staff and pupils and monitor progress. We are also continuing to think creatively about our relationship with Marleigh Primary Academy, with some potentially exciting opportunities developing for staff and pupils alike.

We have lost our staff Governor this term as Mrs Tabram has moved on. It is our hope to recruit over the summer term for this staff member. 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

Parent Forum

We held our latest Parent Forum on **Thursday 16th March**, the notes of which are attached. We welcomed back **Chloe Newell and Louise Willerton** from Cambridge City Council's Community Safety Team, to update on developments following the presentation about county lines at the previous forum.

We were due to be joined by Mr Parker to talk about PE, but he was not well. Instead, I shared a bit more about the journey we are on to shape the vision for the school and invited comments from parents about how we engage with them and what more we could do.

Our next Parent Forum is on **Thursday 6th July 2023** at 7pm. This will be in-person at the school, but we intend to provide an online link. More details to follow, but please make a note of the date.

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 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 wish you all a restful Easter break, and a return to school for what promises to be a busy but enjoyable summer term.

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

Chair of Governors (on behalf of the LGB)

March 2023