

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

Dear Parents,

Well, that is nearly another term over. For some of you this will have been your first time through this as your little ones joined us in September – I trust you have felt welcomed by the FDPS community – we are pleased that you are with us. For the remainder of you, it's great to have you still with us and thank you for all you bring to our school community. Here are a few updates as usual.

### **Governor Matters**

As I mentioned back in the summer, I have had some time off over the first half of the Autumn Term. In my absence, Liz Harrison stepped in as Chair of the LGB, extending her stay as a Governor to see us through this period, before finishing at our November meeting. I knew the LGB would be in safe hands as Liz has served as Chair before here and I was not proved wrong! Thank you, Liz. We have also said goodbye to Henry James and Paula Bishop, both of whom have found the demands of their work and other commitments making it difficult to really give the time to being a School Governor. Again, our thanks have been expressed to them.

We are delighted to have welcomed Rachel Bailham as our new Staff Governor at the start of the term, and we are also thrilled to have two prospective new Governors joining us. They attended our meeting in December, and we are now just waiting on the Anglian Learning Trust Board to approve them to join us, but hopefully from January they will be fully on board.

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

Trust Appointed Governors: Stuart Wood (Chair), Simon Wall, Xav Castelino, Lindsay Davies (plus 2 awaiting approval)

Parent Governors: Chris Lindley, Miriam Ferrer

Staff Governors: Miss James (Acting Head), Mrs Bailham

Clerk: Stuart Hales

### **School Vision & The future**

I am having regular conversations with the Trust regarding the direction of the school, particularly in regard to the position of Headteacher. Mr Askew is committed to Bottisham Primary School for this Academic year as their Acting Head. The Trust are currently recruiting to fill this position permanently, with interviews expected towards the end of January.

Also, Marleigh PA is facing a change with the Head leaving at the end of this term and an Interim Head having been appointed for the remaining two terms of this Academic year.

All of this means that the Trust currently have three Acting/Interim Heads across three schools, and they are working hard across all three schools to put in place permanent appointments as we move forward. As there are clearly links between all three, it is difficult to go live with appointments all at the same time, hence the Trust moving forward with Bottisham Primary, and

then early in January, we will be meeting to discuss the way forward for both FDPS and Marleigh PA. The Trust will be involving the LGB's in these conversations.

In the meantime, Miss James is doing a fantastic job, ably supported by the team here at FD and we are very grateful to her for her willingness to step in and up to help the School through this period.

### **Layby**

It has been brought to our attention that the use of the layby has become a bit of a challenge again. This was discussed at our last LGB meeting (yet again!), when we were also informed that some parents are performing 3-point turns in the road. There have been a number of 'near misses' with staff having to warn parents and children stood on the path of cars reversing.

**This is clearly not acceptable as it is a real safety risk to children and parents.**

We are also aware that some of our parents, who have a blue badge, have been unable to access the layby for drop off.

Can we urge you, to honour the decision that was taken a few years ago **to reserve the use of the layby to only those with blue badges, or those with special permission from the school office**. We know we cannot enforce this decision, but we are asking that for the greater good of all concerned, that this be respected. It adds significantly to the workload of our staff and means our SLT are having to deal with some tricky situations, which are avoidable.

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. Thank you.

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 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](mailto:chair@fendittonprimary.org) / 07770 792371)

Chair of Governors (on behalf of the LGB)

December 2023