Dear parents and carers

Christmas is nearly upon us – carols are being sung, mince pies are being eaten and Santa and his reindeer are doing their limbering up exercises. Everyone at Boxmoor has been incredibly busy this term, including the governors, so read on for a snapshot of what we’ve been up to and to find out about changes to the Governing Body.

Merry Christmas!

Jane Read
Chair of Improvement Committee

School Development Plan (SDP)

The priorities for this year which the governors are monitoring are:

1. To improve the standards of attainment in writing, with a particular focus on writing across the curriculum to target boys’ writing and the improvement of spelling strategies across the school
2. To improve the standards of attainment by focusing on children’s health and well-being through the PSHE curriculum
3. To develop leadership and management at both senior and middle leadership levels, which in turn will improve the quality of teaching
4. To maintain the progress and attainment in Mathematics across the school

Spring term meeting dates

22nd January 2018
Resources committee
22nd January 2018
Improvement committee
12th March 2018
Resources committee
12th March 2018
Improvement committee
26th March 2018
Full Governing Body (FGB)
Looking back

John Eardley was re-elected as Chair of Governors at the FGB on 4th December. He was originally appointed to the Governing Body in December 2013 by Hertfordshire County Council.

At the FGB, he talked about the changes that have taken place in the school over the past few years. Five years’ ago the Ofsted inspection had rated the school ‘Inadequate’ and it had been given a ‘Notice to Improve’. Since then there’s been many changes of staff (including two new Heads and a new Deputy Head) and two further Ofsted inspections. The current Boxmoor Primary Self Evaluation judges the school to be Good with Outstanding features. Our School Improvement Partner agrees with this judgement. The governors think that this is a huge achievement for the Head and her staff.

We would like to thank John for all his hard work for the Governing Body over the last few years, and all the work he’s done on improving outside areas such as the Forest School and wildlife areas.

Changes to the Governing Body

We are pleased to welcome three new governors. Nicola Goodyear is a Parent Governor. She lives in Boxmoor with her husband and two children and is a barrister specialising in family law. Staff Governor, Emma Mansbridge, has been a teaching assistant at Boxmoor Primary since 2007. She lives in Boxmoor with her husband and four children. Veronique Evans is a Co-opted Governor. She lives in Boxmoor and has a daughter at Boxmoor Primary. She was a secondary Science teacher and is now working for Hertfordshire County Council supporting the education of children with medical conditions who cannot attend school.

Other changes: Richard Edis is Vice-Chair, Jane Read is Chair of Improvement Committee and Annie Snell is Chair of Resources Committee.

The link governors are: Health & Safety Governor – John Eardley; SEND Governor – Jane Read; HR Governor – Clare Brooke; Safeguarding Governor – Annie Snell; CLA Governor – Blaise Evan; Governor Training Governor – Blaise Evans; EYFS Governor – Lisa Ward; Literacy Governor – Jane Read.

Eco-friendly Boxmoor

Governors supported the school in identifying the opportunity to upgrade lighting from fluorescent tubes to much more energy efficient LED lighting, with some automatic controls. The installation was completed on 10th December and is expected to save £1,600 per year by reducing electricity bills. It’s being paid for with an interest free loan, which will be repaid, but after seven years the school will be able to spend the money saved on other things.

Governor vacancies

We’re currently looking for a Co-opted Governor to support the Improvement Committee.

Visit the Governor section of the Boxmoor School website for more information:

www.boxmoor.herts.sch.uk/topic/governors
Staff survey

We had 19 responses to the Staff Survey and are very pleased to report that 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they were proud to be a member of staff at Boxmoor, they enjoyed their job, children were safe and behaviour was good. Governors are pleased that the majority agreed that governors were involved in school life and valued and recognised the work that staff did. Governors are going to be organising a lunch for staff on the Inset day in January as a thank you for all their hard work this term.

Dinner time for governors

One of SDP priorities is health and well-being and four governors had school dinners with the children in November. Governors were impressed by how well-organised and orderly dinner time was and how well behaved the children were. They enjoyed sitting with the children and chatting. Children said that lunches have improved since the band system was brought in and there is more fruit available.

Link governors have also been into school this term to discuss EYFS, SEND, Literacy, Safeguarding, Human Resources and Health and Safety.

Preparing for Ofsted

It is likely that Ofsted will be paying a visit to the school in the not-too-distant future and governors have to be prepared to meet with them: ‘The contribution of governors to the school’s performance is evaluated as part of the judgement on the effectiveness of leadership and management.’ (Ofsted School Inspection Handbook)

As part of the preparations for an inspection, the school is going to be hosting a governor training session in January called ‘Meet the Ofsted Inspector’ which will be run by Herts for Learning. Governors will experience a mock inspection that reflects what would happen at an actual inspection. We’re also planning an in-house training course on the topic of ‘Securing Good, Moving Towards Outstanding’.

School finances

One of the jobs of the governing body is: ‘overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.’

In the past, the school regularly received £40,000 per year to spend on capital items (the physical bits of the school, such as heating systems, the roof, playground equipment, etc.). This year, like the previous two years, we received only £6,500 and this was spent replacing our ten-year-old IT servers.

Funds raised by the PTA are incredibly important. The £9000 that is raised each year thanks to the wonderful support of parents and carers means that the school can buy equipment which we couldn’t otherwise afford.