BOXMOOR PRIMARY
GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Boxmoor School Governors' Newsletter. Each term we will report on what we have been up to and what our plans are for the future.

Long gone are the days where governors would spend their time discussing school uniform colours and logos, or raising funds. The Governing Body has a very serious job to do: 'a statutory obligation for ensuring the school is operating effectively and in line with legislative and educational requirements’. This means doing three things:

- acting strategically
- being accountable to stakeholders (that’s you)
- ensuring financial probity.

The Governing Body sets the school’s aims and policies, makes decisions on how to spend the budget and appoints the Headteacher to whom we delegate responsibility for the implementation of policy, day-to-day management and operation of the school, and delivery of the curriculum. Our duties include overseeing the welfare of the children, managing the buildings and financial budgetary control.

Most decisions are taken at Full Governing Body meetings but some of the work is delegated to the two subcommittees: ‘Resources’ is responsible for finance, premises and staff while ‘Improvement’ is responsible for standards, children and parents. In addition to being committee members, governors take on roles linked to specific subjects or school functions: literacy, maths, finance, health and safety, safeguarding, SEND, the arts, etc. Each governor is a volunteer and is expected to dedicate between 10 and 20 days per year to the running of the school.

Boxmoor Primary has been particularly successful in recruiting an excellent team of dedicated governors. I believe this is because we concentrate on strategic things that will improve the school in the long term whilst also encouraging governors to involve themselves in school life. We provide support and advice where possible but at the same time leave Mrs Campos to get on with the running of the school. It is pleasing to see in our recent staff survey that 100% of the respondents agreed with the statement, ‘the governors are involved in school life’.

The autumn term for the Governing Body is about kicking off all the plans we approved in the summer term and ensuring that the priorities in the School Development Plan (SDP) are being carried out. It’s also about making sure that staff objectives (including the Headteacher’s) are set and aligned with those priorities. Here are a few key areas of interest:

Standards
Education standards are monitored internally throughout the year by our Senior Leadership Team. It is good, however, to get external validation. To this end, our school improvement partner visited during November to perform an annual standards visit. We were really pleased to see that in her
opinion our Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes would now probably be judged as ‘outstanding’ for quality of learning and progress during an Ofsted inspection. This is testament to the great work being done by all the staff in the lower school and bodes well as the children progress through the school.

**Finance**

Each month the school produces a detailed analysis of spending against our original budget and forecasts expenditure to year end. In an era of tight school budgets, it’s a relief to say that current projections show significant improvement to our overall contingency fund. This is primarily due to control of costs.

**Staff feedback**

Each autumn the Governing Body carries out a staff survey. It was uplifting to see that 100% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statements: ‘I am proud to be a member of staff at this school’, ‘I enjoy my job’, ‘leaders do all they can to improve teaching’ and ‘I know what we are trying to achieve at this school’.

**School Development Plan priorities**

Each year the Governing Body sets out a number of priorities in the School Development Plan. Mrs Campos reports to the Governing Body each term on progress against these priorities. Here is the current status of each:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority 1</td>
<td>To develop the provision for children with significant needs and the more and most able, in conjunction with the Inclusion quality mark framework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 2</td>
<td>To continue to improve the quality of teaching through lesson studies and collaborative working, with particular emphasis on supporting an NQT and a teacher new to the school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 3</td>
<td>To improve attainment and progress in mathematics, with an increased focus on reasoning and problem-solving skills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority 4</td>
<td>To continue work on the arts for the Arts Mark accreditation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And finally, with the constant pressure on academic achievement it’s often easy to forget how much else goes on at the school: firework displays, quiz nights, discos, carol concerts, pantomimes, plays, decorations galore and so much more. The work that goes into all this is simply staggering and a real all-school effort. It was lovely to hear the children sing at the Boho Boxmoor tree lighting and a pleasure to see how the whole school celebrates the Christmas festival. I would like to thank Mrs Campos and her very hard-working staff, my fellow governors, the parents, and, of course, the children for making Boxmoor even more brilliant this year!

May I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

John Eardley, Chair of the Governing Body
RECENT ACTIVITIES

In the Autumn term, the Governing Body:

- Reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Improvement and Resources committees
- Reviewed KS1 and KS2 attainment and progress data and SATs data
- Updated the School Development Plan
- Reviewed attendance data
- Received the Early Years Provision report
- Reviewed attainment data for EYFS (Nursery and Reception) and Key Stage 1
- Reviewed Pupil Premium and Sports Premium expenditure and plans
- Approved annual teaching staff pay progression awards
- Carried out the Headteacher’s Performance Review
- Approved monthly budget forecasts
- Carried out health and safety walk-arounds
- Carried out a staff survey
- Created an Asset Management Plan and draft preventative maintenance schedule
- Benchmarked school income and expenditure against other similar local and regional schools
- Reviewed the Schedule of Financial Delegation
- Made link governor visits (SEND, EYFS, Literacy)
- Received the Headteacher’s Report
- Reviewed the Child Protection Policy
- Reviewed attainment data for Key Stages 1 and 2 (Years 2 and 6)
- Carried out in-house training on pupil assessment
- Carried out a parents survey
- Look at school meals provision
- Deliver documentation to County relating to ‘Financial Values in Schools’
- Complete the school’s ‘Self Evaluation’
- Approve the final 2015/16 accounts
- Produce the draft 2016/17 budget
- Run fiction writing workshops for the most able Year 6 writers
- Carry out link governor visits

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

In the Spring term, the Governing Body will:

- Start consultation process into the 2017/18 school budget and school development plan
- Receive subject reports – maths and science/ICT
- Carry out a review of governor skills and competences
- Review attainment data for Key Stages 1 and 2 (Years 2 and 6)
- Carry out in-house training on pupil assessment
- Carry out a parents survey
- Look at school meals provision
- Deliver documentation to County relating to ‘Financial Values in Schools’
- Complete the school’s ‘Self Evaluation’
- Approve the final 2015/16 accounts
- Produce the draft 2016/17 budget
- Run fiction writing workshops for the most able Year 6 writers
- Carry out link governor visits
THE GOVERNORS

Each of our governors is linked to a specific part of the school, being appointed by the Governing Body to understand, oversee, monitor and report on specific aspects of the school. ‘Link governors’ enrich the Governing Body’s understanding of a particular area and contribute to informed decision-making.

We also consider that ‘link governors’ help the Governing Body develop positive connections with staff and create a visible and professional profile within the school. As well as governors with links to subject areas, there are those who have specific roles in supporting the Governing Body fulfil its statutory responsibilities in areas such as Child Protection, Special Educational Needs, Looked After Children and Health & Safety.

Our ‘link governor’ roles are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Eardley – Health &amp; Safety</th>
<th>Sandrine Florand – Languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Burrage – The Arts</td>
<td>Jane Read – Special Educational Needs and Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare Brooke – Human Resources</td>
<td>Annie Snell – Safeguarding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Edis – Maths</td>
<td>Rhian Owen – Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaise Evans – Children Looked After/Governor Development</td>
<td>Lisa Ward – Early Years/Energy and Asset Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joey Farnell – Finance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We’re pleased to welcome a new ‘junior’ governor. Rachel Burrage has given birth to a little girl, Eva. We wish Rachel and her husband all the best with their new addition.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, visit our Governors page on the school website:

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

Governors' photos can be also found in the school entrance hall.

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that improvements are being constantly implemented and are delivering immediate results. If you want to contact the governors in confidence to raise any issue, then please contact us by letter via the school office.