

Meeting of the Governing Body 12th October 2021

The governors held their meeting at the school with two governors attending the meeting via a zoom link. School staff ensured that all necessary papers were made available to every governor prior to the meeting.

brief summary of key matters discussed

Sharepoint

DC introduced governors to Sharepoint which is replacing E Schools for the storage of all governors' papers.

Composition of the Governing Body

VW's term as a parent governor ended this month. The board agreed to appoint him as a co-opted governor from 12th October following his election (at the September meeting) to the position of chair of governors.

Two new parent governors joined the board following their election on 11th October: Kirstie Beange and Maria DiMartino.

Half Year Budget Review

HW, the School Business Manager, presented the budget forecast as at September 2021 following meetings with ND, JA and KJ. The school is currently running 11.7% under budget but, necessarily, a number of costs (eg such as staff cost of living increases and energy price increases) have yet to be established.

Nevertheless, the school's finances are such that it will be able to proceed with significant projects in the current school year. Subject to the availability of materials, these include a new library at the heart of the school, expanded staffroom facilities, important new intercom/TV facilities and wi fi points together with essential floor work in reception and external tarmac repairs.

Head Teacher update

The KS2 summer results were very good: Reading 90% with 22% at greater depth; Grammar 78% with 15% at greater depth; Maths 82% with 10% at greater depth

Leechpool was above 2019 national average in Reading and Maths and in line in grammar, which is a focused area this year.

RC shared with the governors the figures for the end of 2020/2021 year and the predicted figures for 2021/2022 for each year group.

The SEF (School Self-Evaluation Form) has been updated and includes the early years. The Nursery is working on their SEF.

This term, the focus is on PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) and Music. Early years will be looking at the consistency of their documentation. In the spring term, the focus will be on continuing to integrate computing into the curriculum.

Staffing - 3 members of staff have been off with Covid but have all now returned to school. The Leadership team have been covering classes over the last couple of weeks.

In May, Subject Leads enjoyed outstanding deep dive training from Dave Cole and have subsequently been given time out of class to train other members of staff.

Governors will be invited to attend on inset day 5 (Monday 6th June 2222)

LEAF are seeking to recruit a paid organiser to engage for 15 hours a term.

Caterpillar Nursery update

All new starters have settled in well.

The Nursery has received £678 for health and physical development to be targeted at pupil premium and disadvantaged children. The money needs to be spent by March 2022.

This term, the children are looking at the Colour Monster book, which focuses on different colours for different emotions.

Staff now have walkie talkies in the after school club so that supervising adults remain in contact with each other whilst they are in different areas of the school.

KS has attended a network meeting looking at possible Ofsted questions and has subsequently encouraged staff to think about how they would answer and talk about their children. ND and KS are attending training about achieving closer links between nursery's and schools.

KS is going through the 6 weeks' checklist on how the children are doing and the nursery is looking at linking this with the school's '6 week in' meetings.

As reported by the Head, KS is looking at the Nursery SEF; she will discuss muddy play with GM.

Nursery Transition and OFSTED Registration

The Nursery is in the process of removing 3 committee members from the Ofsted record, as they are no longer involved with the nursery. They are also adding MdM plus 2 additional governors to the Ofsted record.

The Nursery's transition to becoming an integral part of Leechpool School will take most of the year to complete but the process will be fully documented and shared with governors as it progresses. Nursery policies will be brought in line with the school policies

Governors Vision and Strategy

DB has summarised the all the key ideas emerging from recent training and discussions into a single tabular format; the resulting document will be discussed at the November meeting.

Policies

Capability - updated

Data Protection - updated

First Aid – updated

Staff Sickness –ND updated

Child Protection – EP – Currently under review

Curriculum – RC – being reviewed

Pay Staff – ND a/w West Sussex Model policy

SEN and Inclusion – EP – Currently under Review

Health & Safety

ML advised that there was nothing to report

Any Other Business

SP asked about the number of Covid cases in school, RC advised it has been up to 8% and they reintroduced a bubble around year 5 but cases have now significantly reduced and the figure, which is being monitored closely, is currently running at 3%.

JD has amended the Terms of Reference and governors proposed no further amendments. This document will be signed off at the November meeting.

JD asked if SC would be the Well Being Governor after she attended the training in the summer and her work on the Mental Health/Well Being group. SC agreed.

The Governors presented FF with a leaving present; she was thanked for her consistent hard work, commitment and professionalism over the last 8 years both as a governor of the school and as chair of the Caterpillar Nursery.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Governing Body will take place on 16th November 2021.

Details of the members of the school's Governing Body can be found at <https://www.leechpoolprimaryschool.co.uk/governor-profiles>

Parents with children currently at the school are welcome to contact governors with questions or general feedback. Please note that parents should always contact the school directly with any concerns.

Initials and role of **all** governors and also those who were 'in attendance' at this October meeting are as follows:

ND – Nicola Davenport – Head Teacher

VW – Vinod Wagjiani – Chair of Governors, Joint Lead for Child Protection/Safeguarding, Lead for Internet Safety

JA – John Adams – Joint Lead for Finance (V)

KB – Kirstie Beange – Parent Governor

JB – John Bentley – Vice Chair of Governors and Joint Lead for Safeguarding

DB – Derick Bostridge – Lead for Public Relations (V)

DC – Daniel Clement – IT Technician (attending to introduce governors to sharepoint and leaving immediately after the budget presentation)

RC – Robert Cooper – Assistant Head – Curriculum and Achievement (in attendance)

SC – Sarah Cullern – Enrichment Leader, Well Being Leader and subject leader for Modern Foreign Languages

MdM – Maria DiMartino – Parent Governor

JD – Jayne Dowell – Clerk to the governors

OE – Olivia Ellery – Lead for Human Resources

KJ – Katie Jesse – Joint Lead for Finance

ML – Michel Letley – Curriculum and School Liaison Lead (HLTA); Premises/Health & Safety

GM – Gary Marlow – Lead for PE and Sports Premium

SP – Sara Page – Lead for Parent Liaison

KS – Kate Summerhayes - Caterpillar Nursery and Afterschool Manager (in attendance)

HW – Hazel Wellcome – School Business Manager (attending to present the budget and leaving immediately after the budget presentation)

V=virtual attendee at this meeting