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Governing Body
Autumn Term 2017 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

We would like to take the opportunity to share our priorities for this academic year:

Whole School Priorities 2017-2018

- Complete the preparations for transition to full Primary.
- Improve the attendance of pupils who are regularly absent.
- Further develop the support and training for Teaching Assistants.
- Continue to enhance the progress of all different groups of pupils (with particular focus on the disadvantaged pupils) and develop a more detailed system for measuring progress.
- Continue to enhance the progress of pupils in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and address trends in EYFS baseline assessments in Understanding and Speaking.
- Further develop the Camestone values programme and the teaching of British Values.
- Develop the outdoor learning environment.
- Further develop the structure and effectiveness of Governor Link Visits.

Governor Visits - Governors monitor progress towards these priorities through a series of visits and meetings. Below are some extracts from governor visit reports this term:

“The interventions are pupil led through Needs Identification. Interventions were also more flexible-they may be in or out of the classroom and were not rigidly fixed to a set time or venue unless need dictated”

Staff are better able to support pupils with additional needs and use the expertise of external partners where necessary”

“The photo presentation brought together all members of the school community to celebrate their learning during the half term. Children enjoyed watching their friends and sharing the experiences of other year groups”

British Values

British Values is a national policy which was set out by the government in its ‘prevent’ strategy (2011). British Values education focuses on 4 key areas:

- Democracy,
- the Rule of Law,
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith

At Camestone British Values are taught through our broad curriculum and are incorporated into our values programme. For detailed information please read the British Values Statement in the Policy section of the school website.

Finance

As a Governing Body we monitor all the school finances to ensure they are well managed. The Finance, Personnel and Buildings Committee looks at the budget in detail to ensure that our allocation is used efficiently

and effectively. This includes money that is received in the form of a grant. We draw your attention in particular to the Pupil Premium Grant and the PE and Sports Grant.

- **Pupil Premium Grant** (full report available on the school website)

One of the main grants the school currently receives is the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) – In 2016/17 our PPG allocation was **£71,780** and this year is **£58,080**.

Pupil Premium is additional funding which is allocated to provide support for children from low-income families (traditionally those eligible for free school meals) and children who have been looked after. Nationally, on average, attainment is lower in these children and therefore the funds are made available to help improve attainment for these groups. The school is required to account for the expenditure in detail and measure the impact it has had in terms of pupil progress and achievement.

It is important to understand that within school these children are not singled out or treated differently from other groups of children. Support is available to ALL children based on need, it simply comes from a different fund.

- **The PE and Sports Grant** (full report available on the school website)

The government is providing additional funding of £150 million per annum to improve provision of physical education (PE) and sport in primary schools. The funding is ring-fenced and therefore can only be spent on provision of PE and sport in schools. Our Primary and Sports Grant for 2016/17 was **£9145** and our 2017/18 allocation is **£18,340**.

As part of our conversion to Primary School the artificial grass areas, in the Foundation outdoor space and school field, were installed during the summer holidays. Both areas were partly funded by the PE and Sports Grant. The project has provided children with continuous access to physical activity on a surface that can be used all year round.

Governing Body Business

- **Thank you** - We take the opportunity to thank Mrs Dobinson for her commitment to the role of staff governor. Mrs Dobinson took the decision to step down in September, her knowledge of the school and education was a valuable asset to the Governing Body and she will be missed.
- **Staff governor appointment** – We are pleased to report that Miss Emma Wilson has joined the Governing Body as Staff Governor with effect from September 2017
- **Governor Roles and Responsibilities** - From 1st September 2017, in response to the development of Camestone as a Primary, the membership of the governing body increased to 12 members. In addition, from January 2018 we will be improving the effectiveness of the Governing Body by implementing Governors links to subject areas. For a full list of Governors and their roles and responsibilities please see the school website.
- **Vacancies** - We currently have 2 vacancies on the Governing Body:
 - **1 Parent Governor** (must be appointed from the Parents of children on school roll)
 - **1 Co-opted Governor** (appointed by the governing body usually from the wider community e.g grandparents, friends, local community groups, business)

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in knowing more about becoming a school governor we would be happy to have an informal discussion with you. Please ask at the school office.

And finally....

We would like to wish you and your families a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break