



Camestone Lower School Governing Body

Spring Term Newsletter 2015

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to the first of our newsletters that we plan to send out termly.

Firstly, we thought it would be useful to explain the role of the governing body.

Our main role is to help raise standards and performance of the school by supporting the work of the head teacher and the staff. We support and challenge the Headteacher by gathering views and asking questions. The governing body become involved in many aspects of school life and collectively make important decisions on policy and strategy including Curriculum, budget management, staffing and recruitment, health and safety, school improvement and performance.

We would like to share with you some of the achievements from last year and our priorities for this academic year.

In 2013/2014

- 67% of pupils in Foundation reached a 'Good Level of Development' against the Early Learning Goals. This is 6% higher than the 2014 national figure.
- Ofsted data for 2014 confirms that in the Key stage 1 assessments 98% of pupils attained Level 2 or above in reading, 98% of pupils a Level 2 or above in the writing assessment and 100% of pupils attained Level 2 or above in the key stage 1 mathematics assessment. In 2014, the school was in the top 20% of all schools based on these key indicators.
- The progress of children from key Stage 1 to key stage 2 has improved during the last 2 years and is significantly higher than the national results and Bedford Borough average figures.
- In Key Stage 2 100% of pupils made 1 level of progress in Writing, 97% 1 level of progress in Reading and 97% 1 level of progress in Maths. This is significantly higher than Bedford Borough average figures.

Our congratulations to all pupils and staff on their achievements in 2014.

For 2014/2015 the following priorities have been identified

Priority 1 - To implement the new National Curriculum and develop a framework for assessment and monitoring.

Priority 2 - To further develop current practice with regard to inclusion across all aspects of school life and ensure ALL pupils receive a relevant and challenging curriculum

Priority 3 - To continue to raise the standards and the quality of teaching and learning across the school

Governors continue to monitor school performance ensuring the quality of teaching and learning is maintained throughout the school. We do this through a series of visits and meetings. This year focused visits so far have included: Teaching and Learning across all stages of the school, Special Educational Needs, Safeguarding, Health and Safety and most recently the new curriculum with a focus on Literacy and Numeracy in Key Stage 1 and 2.

We would like to share with you some extracts from recent Governor Visit reports.

" There is a clear process for encouraging learners to become more independent as they move throughout the school"

"The reflectiveness of the staff came across particularly strongly and it was clear how the school are focussed on children being able to apply their learning to a wide range of contexts"

"Pupils and their progress was clearly the key focus of all staff"

Governors regularly attend school events such as Christmas plays, Decoration Day, school trips and year group events. We continue to be impressed by the behaviour of the children, their enthusiasm and level of engagement, both in the classroom and on school outings.

" The children were a credit to the school" (Captain Safety Roadshow - Jan 2015)

School Policies

School policies are regularly reviewed and updated and are available on the website. We draw your attention in particular to the Pupil Premium Report, The Local Offer for SEN and the PE and Sports Grant.

We have recently updated the 'Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and other Visitors to the school'. A copy is attached.

Other news

Pupil attendance is currently 94.75%. 40 children achieved 100% attendance in the autumn term. Thank you for your support in ensuring your children are in school and on time.

The Universal Infant School Meals scheme (year 2 and below) has been successful with 132 children on average taking a school meal each day of the 177 that are eligible.

The new Family Room was completed in the Summer Holidays and has provided a more comfortable setting in which to support parents and pupils.

The PE activity wall was installed before the autumn term to encourage more focussed physical activity during playtime and break. You will have noticed that since the Spring half term activity designs have been added.

In October a number of Teachers from Copenhagen visited the school as part of a learning exchange. They were particularly impressed by the displays of children's work, the creative curriculum and topic afternoons.

In November we welcomed a delegation of teachers from Latvia for 3½ days. The focus of the visit was teaching and learning. Feedback was very positive. They particularly liked the topic work and the high level of pupil engagement.

The school PTFA have met regularly and are doing a great job raising money for projects that are benefitting all the children of the school.

Governing Body Business

Mr Dave West left the Governing Body at the end of December after 6 years as a parent Governor. Dave leaves with our best wishes and thanks for his commitment and support during his term of office.

We welcomed Mrs Michelle Sogga as parent governor with effect from January 2015.

In September the Governing body was required to reconstitute under new regulations. This provided us with the opportunity to reflect on our current effectiveness and consider our collective skills. With effect from the 1st January 2015 the governing body is represented by the members listed overleaf.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your support and wish you all a relaxing Easter break.

Membership of the Governing Body

Name	Capacity	Date Appointed	Role 2014/2015
Mrs Nicky Attenborough	Co-opted	Jan. 2015	Full Governing Body Meetings Governor Link for Foundation and Key Stage 1
Ms Kay Burley	Co-opted	Jan. 2015	Vice Chair of Governors Finance, Personnel & Buildings Committee Full Governing Body Meetings Governor Link for Key Stage 2
Mrs Vicky Dobinson	Staff	Sept. 2013	Full Governing Body Meetings
Mr John Epton	Co-opted	Jan. 2015	Finance, Personnel & Buildings Committee Full Governing Body Meetings Governor Link for Foundation and Key Stage 1
Mr Richard Hyde	Co-opted	Jan. 2015	Finance, Personnel & Buildings Committee (Vice Chair) Full Governing Body Meetings Governor Link for Key Stage 2
Mr Chris Mantle	Co-opted	Jan. 2015	Full Governing Body Meetings Finance, Personnel & Buildings Committee (Chair) Governor Link for SEN Governor Link for Pupil Premium Grant
Cllr Mohammed Nawaz	Local Authority	Oct. 2011	Full Governing Body Meetings Governor link for Safeguarding
Mrs Michelle Sogga	Parent	Jan. 2015	Full Governing Body Meetings Governor Link for Safeguarding
Mr Paul Stanyard	Staff	Ex-officio	Head teacher All committees
Mrs Julia Surman	Parent	Jan. 2013	Chair of Governors Finance, Personnel & Buildings Committee Full Governing Body Meetings Governor Link for SEN
Mrs Rachel Mitchell	Clerk		Clerk to Governors