

Stocks Green Primary School

Governor Newsletter

December 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

As we come to the end of term 2, 2022 we can look back and reflect upon new developments and successes that have taken place in school during this time.

In September, we welcomed Mr Hipkiss as our new Headteacher and Leader of our school community and Mr Endersby, Deputy Head, was appointed as Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO). The newly designed school newsletter has been well received as an insightful window into school life. In October, we were pleased to welcome Mr Till who joined the team as Site Manager.

As school Governors our role is to act as 'critical friends' and make strategic decisions as a group, whilst the operational management of the school remains the responsibility of the School leadership team. We meet both as a full Governing Body and in school subcommittees regularly throughout the year, monitoring the performance of school closely. The sub committees are Finance and Premises, Pay and Performance, and Standards and Curriculum; all meetings are held in school. We are supported in our expectations by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Department for Education (DfE).

Strategic Priorities

Our Strategic priorities continue to be based upon the following themes, Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management, EYFS Provision, Buildings and Grounds and finally Governance.

Underpinning this year's School Improvement priority - Quality of Education is the aim for all pupils to succeed now and as citizens of the future. Ensuring that the curriculum is robust and demonstrates progression in knowledge and skills is among one of the major projects in this year's School Improvement plan (SIP).

Curriculum subjects have been divided between Subject leader teams, including the SLT, and action plans created to address the Intent, Implementation and Impact for each subject.

Reading has been identified as an area for further development and as a result a programme called 'Sounds Write' has been purchased and introduced, staff have received intensive training and resources have been purchased. There has also been a review of reading teaching in the school and an exciting new programme for reading development has been rolled out.

Governor Committees are responsible for monitoring priorities and progress which are reported on in their minutes. Committees are responsible for reporting to the FGB whose minutes can be found in the Governor section on the School website. All minutes are recorded expertly by Andrea Woollett who is employed by the school as Clerk to Governors.

School Policies & their function

Governors must ensure that the school fulfils its duty of care through policies, protocols and above all, training for staff.

Policies underpin every aspect of school management. They fall under the headings of Statutory, as determined by the DfE, and Non-Statutory which are additional and determined by individual schools. The Equalities policy and Child Protection policies are examples of Statutory policies, whereas Maths and English policies would be specific to Stocks Green and therefore regarded as Non-Statutory.

Policies are mostly created by the Senior Leader Team (SLT) and staff, Governors review them and they are shared with Parents and Carers, either directly or on the School Website.

As you are all aware a survey on values has been completed during term 2 and all Stakeholders consulted. It is important that all stakeholders are involved and consulted on the development of certain policies, as in this case, as part of the Behaviour policy review. Through consultation of all Stakeholders this has provided the opportunity to consider the values that we share and that we feel underpin the behaviour of the school community at Stocks Green Primary School.

Interestingly, as reported by Mr Hipkiss in his latest newsletter, the top three out of the five values chosen as most important by all groups, pupils, parents, staff and Governors, were Respect, Honesty and Kindness. Great minds think alike! We look forward to receiving the updated policy for review in the New Year.

Safeguarding

In September, the key safeguarding document Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2022 was updated. The KCSIE document is statutory guidance for schools, colleges and other institutes of education and it is put together by the Department for Education (DfE). It applies to all school staff as well as to governing bodies and it sets out the legal duties which must be followed to ensure the correct safeguarding of children under the age of 18.

As part of adhering to the Staff and Governor Codes of Conduct, at the beginning of each academic year, we are required to sign to say that we have read the document Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2022 and fully understand the impact that this has on our respective roles.

Safeguarding is an agenda item at all Governing body meetings. Mr Hipkiss, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has shared the School's Safeguarding Audit and action plan for the coming academic year. He is supported in his role by Mr Endersby and Mrs Buckley who are also Designated Safeguarding Leads and Mrs Cooke, Safeguarding Governor.

And finally.....

As term 2 draws to a close, we would like to express our sincere and heartfelt thanks to Mr Hipkiss and his Staff team who have worked tirelessly to support all pupils and families, and to Parents and Carers for sharing our journey.



SEASON'S GREETINGS TO YOU ALL



Take Care and Stay Safe

How to contact us

If you would like to contact the Governors to raise any issue in confidence, you can do so by letter via the School Office, please address correspondence to Rob Chewter, Chair of Governors or by email: governors@stocks-green.kent.sch.uk

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

www.stocksgreenprimary.co.uk/governors

Governor's photos can also be found in the school Entrance Hall.

Autumn Meeting Dates 2022

FGB Full Governing Body	F&P Finance & Premises	P&P Pay & Performance	S&C Standards & Curriculum
17 October	11 October	10 October	5 October 7 December

Spring Meeting Dates 2022

FGB Full Governing Body	F&P Finance & Premises	P&P Pay & Performance	S&C Standards & Curriculum
23 January 20 March (All day)	10 January 7 February	16 January	11 January 8 March

Summer Meeting Dates 2022

FGB Full Governing Body	F&P Finance & Premises	P&P Pay & Performance	S&C Standards & Curriculum
15 May 10 July	9 May	8 May	3 May