



Governors' Newsletter



Spring Term 2015

Full Governing Body meetings 2014-2015: dates and main focus

- 10th September (evening)
Plan the year ahead, elections
- 20th October (evening)
Approve School Development Plans
- 26th November (all day)
Review KS1 and KS2 SATs results
- 2nd January (evening)
Information session on school structures
- 16th March (evening)
In-house training session on 'Roles and Responsibilities'
- 5th May (evening)
Discuss and approve school budget
- 5th July (all day)
Review of the year—progress and impact of School Development Plans

Copies of the minutes of the meetings are available from the School Office

Average attendance at meetings = 91% (Sept-March)

List of Governors

Headteacher

Sasha Howard

Staff governor

Andrew Jones

Parent governors

Rebecca Arthur (Chair of Children and Learning committee)

Richard Osborn (Chair of Resources committee)

Local Authority (LA) governor

Deborah House (Chair of Governors)

Co-opted governors

Caroline Maskell

Chris Mannix (Chair of Pay Review and Salaries committee)

Emma Tidby

Jon Pumfleet (Vice Chair)

Lyndsay Lees

Robert Ware

From the Chair of Governors...

Governor visits to the school are one of the more pleasurable aspects of our work. Since the start of the school year, all governors have made at least one visit to the school during the school day. Three main focuses for the visits have been:

- **Safeguarding:** particularly the procedures associated with new initiatives, such as the wrap around care provision
- **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND):** focusing on the implementation of the new SEND reforms
- **Raising Achievement Plan:** looking at whole-school writing initiatives and the new Marking and Feedback Policy

Attendance figures have been a concern in recent years so it was very pleasing to see our attendance figure for 2013-2014 was up on the previous year and that overall attendance so far this year has exceeded our target of 95%. This is a fantastic achievement so a huge 'well done' to children, parents and staff. We still have some way to go but we are clearly moving in the right direction—let's hope March's figure is 96% or above!

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Thankyou to everyone who took the time to complete and return the recent Parent/Carer Questionnaire—43 were returned, with 5-12 from each year group. As a learning school we are always looking at areas where improvements can be made and your views on how well we are doing and what we could do better are an important part of this process.

We were very reassured to see so many positive responses: e.g. *100% of those who responded agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy at Meldreth Primary School and that the school is a safe place to learn.*

This reflects the ethos of the school and is a tribute to the staff who work hard to ensure all children feel part of the school community and have a voice within the school.

We will be responding to your comments in due course and our actions will form part of next year's School Development Plan, which will be monitored regularly by the governing body.

For a full summary of the results please see the school website.



"Strong leadership and governance are key to ensuring successful education outcomes for young people"
CBI, November 2013

We are looking for a new recruit to join our enthusiastic, friendly team of governors.

If you are interested in joining us and have the time and energy to make an active contribution to the work of the Governing Body then I would be delighted to hear from you. Please email me at: chair@meldreth.cambs.sch.uk.

Finally, I hope you have an enjoyable Easter break.

Debbie



Up-date on the work of the committees

Children and Learning

- Reviewed 2014 SATs results
- Discussed and monitored impact of the school's Raising Achievement Plan
- Discussed and monitored implementation of Marking and Feedback Policy
- Completed an audit of safer recruitment practices in school with the headteacher
- Attended training on data analysis, safeguarding and Early Years Foundation Stage

Resources

- Attended budget monitoring meetings with the headteacher and school's Financial Adviser
- Discussed and approved the Schools Financial Value Standards statement
- Discussed staff training programme
- Approved plans to improve the security of the school (fencing of the school field, installation of a partition in the school lobby, and erection of staggered barriers at the front of the school)

Pay Review and Salaries

- Reviewed the appraisals process for 2013-2014 and approved pay recommendations for teaching staff
- Reviewed, and are now updating, the Pay Policy in response to new guidelines from the Government.

Governors work very closely with the headteacher and Senior Leadership Team; their input and hard work is much appreciated by all on the governing body.