



# Governors' Newsletter

Autumn Term 2015

## Dates of Full Governing Body meetings 2015-2016

- 14th September (evening)
  - 6th October (evening)
  - 1st December (evening)
  - Date TBC (training session)
  - 3rd May (evening)
  - 13th July (all day)
- Minutes of the meetings are available on the school web-site and from the School Office.

## List of Governors

- **Headteacher**  
Sasha Howard
- **Staff governor**  
Andrew Jones
- **Parent governors**  
Rebecca Arthur (co Vice-Chair)  
Richard Osborn
- **Local Authority (LA) governor**  
Deborah House (Chair)
- **Co-opted governors**  
Caroline Maskell  
Chris Mannix (co Vice-Chair)  
Emma Tidby  
Lyndsay Lees  
(two vacant positions)
- **Associate members**  
Sarah Helme  
Neil O'Regan

## From the Chair of Governors...

This term governors and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) have been reviewing the school's development plans: the Raising Achievement Plan and the Strategic Development Plan (SDP). The SDP outlines the longer term development priorities of the school and is reviewed and updated annually. It contains several priorities and this year governors will be focusing on the following:

• **Leadership and Management.** Changes to the school's SLT were made last year: Mrs Howard joined us and Mrs Samways took over the role of Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator. This year's priority is to distribute leadership further, developing the roles of both Middle and Senior Leaders.

We will continue to focus on developing our working relationships with other schools so that valuable school-to-school support is provided at all levels.

With more families moving into the local area the demand for primary school places is increasing, therefore, the structure and organisation of the school, including extending provision, will

continue to be a major priority for governors.

• **Quality of teaching, learning and assessment.** With the phasing out of the old system of assessing children's attainment, staff invested a great deal of time last year developing and trialling a new assessment system (please see the school web-site for more details). This system is being rolled out across the school this year and progress will be monitored closely by both the SLT and governors.

The school will also be continuing to develop a consistent whole-school approach to learning and teaching based around teaching methods and strategies shown to have been successful in other schools.

• **Behaviour and Safety.** Last year several projects were undertaken to improve the security of the premises, including completion of the fencing to the rear field and the installation of a new double-door entry system. This year a staggered barrier will be installed at the front of the school to improve road safety. Safeguarding remains a main focus for the school and this year

we have already completed and responded to a safeguarding audit carried out by the Local Authority and reviewed our safer recruitment practices. Governors have formed a working group whose remit is to outline the role of governors in staff recruitment and develop a policy for recruitment of governors.

Last year the Lookout Club, our wrap-around care provision, was opened. All policies are now in place and working practices monitored to ensure children are safe. The club has been a huge success and numbers have increased throughout the year.

Attendance has been, and continues to be, a major focus for the school. Careful analysis of the data by Mrs Howard has allowed us to understand more fully the patterns of attendance and thus focus our efforts to where they can have the greatest impact. Consequently, we are very pleased to see attendance rates have improved.

Finally, on behalf of the school's governors, I wish you and your families a restful Christmas.

Debbie



## From the Chair of Children and Learning Committee

Each November, the school receives a report from the Department for Education summarising our results for the KS1 and KS2 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) and phonics tests taken the previous July. This report, RAISEonline, provides an external view of pupil achievement and compares our school with all schools nationally.

This year's RAISEonline shows an excellent set of results for Meldreth. In KS1, there is a three year increasing trend of attainment in reading, writing and maths, with the average points score (APS) for all three subjects combined being significantly above the national average (NA)

for the second year in a row.

In KS2, all pupils made the expected level of progress across the key stage in all three core subjects—something achieved by only 12 schools in the county. The 'value added', which is another measure of pupil progress, was significantly above the NA for all subjects combined, maths and reading. As with KS1, the APS for all three subject combined was significantly above NA for the second year running. The proportion of pupils achieving Level 4b, which is the expected level of attainment at the end of Year 6, was above the NA, with the proportion of pupils attaining L5 or above in maths and writing

being significantly above the NA.

The proportion of pupils passing the Y1 phonics test results was slightly below the NA so this is a priority in this year's Raising Achievement Plan (RAP) where we hope to raise pupil achievement in phonics across KS1 so that the proportion of children attaining/exceeding National Expectations increases.

Our attendance figures, while higher than in 2014, remain below the NA so this is another priority in our RAP. We are hoping to see attendance improve to 96%, with a particular improvement in the attendance of children in vulnerable groups.

Rebecca Arthur

**We are currently looking to recruit two co-opted governors.**

**As school leaders, governors can make a real difference to the outcomes of children. We would really like to hear from you if you are interested in becoming a full governor or an associate member and you have the time to commit fully to the role.**

**Please contact Debbie:**

chair@meldreth.cambs.sch.uk