

Prior Heath Infant School



Status confirmed 2010!

29th November 2017

Dear Parents

First of all I would like to thank you, on behalf of the Governing body, for you continuing support for Prior Heath. We recognise that there are many parties involved in the education and welfare of our children and by working together we continue to keep Prior Heath as an outstanding school.

The Governing Body are a pivotal aspect of school life and I'd like to share with you the following details regarding our most recent meeting so that you are aware of the areas that we get involved with and also to understand a little more about the Body itself.

Meeting of the Governing Body Tuesday, 21st November 2017

The Governing Body

The Governing Body represents all the key stakeholders in the school, with members nominated by Surrey County Council, the parents, the staff and additional members to represent the community.

All the Governors sign a Code of Practice which serves as a reminder of the objectives and expectations of the role. In the interest of full transparency governor business interests and attendance are published on the school website. Information about the makeup of the governing body and their roles can be found in the "Our School" section of the website.

In order to allow time to cover all statutory requirements placed on the Governing Body during the autumn term, a separate business meeting was held on 19th September 2017. At this meeting, a number of appointments were made. Mr Keates was re-elected as Chair and Mr Heagren was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

Statutory and recommended specialist Governors were also appointed:

- Pupil Premium including Children in Care/previously Looked after Children – Mr Heagren
- Child Protection and Prevent – Mrs Whitehead
- Link – Mrs Harris
- Special Needs – Mrs Batley Hammond
- Eco Schools – Mr Prior
- Health & Safety/Risk Assessment – Mr Prior
- Academies – Mr Prior & Mr Weller
- Finance/Audit/Financial Sustainability – Mr Heagren
- Premises Building Infrastructure – *vacancy*
- IT – including on-line safety/data protection/staff use – Mr Holmes
- Human Resources – Mrs Horne
- Competency/Sustainability/Self-Evaluation – Mrs Wedlock

A number of Governors have attended a range of training to support their roles which has sharpened governors' focus on how to meet their responsibilities. At the business meeting in September, governors also took part in Child Protection and Safeguarding training which included Prevent. This will continue to be a standing agenda item at all meetings to ensure that pupils are kept safe from harm.

Unfortunately, Mr Nick Chambers has resigned due to the ever increasing commitments of his Councillor role and he is thanked for his support to the Governing Body. We are seeking one co-opted governor who has

electrical/mechanical/building fabric experience to strengthen the governing body. Should parents have contacts that may be interested and have the time commitment to join us please let the office know.

School Curriculum

Governors were presented with comparison assessment data for Key Stage One and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to Surrey and National data which confirmed the continued excellent results for all children.

The school website publishes statutory and other useful information online. This includes the Pupil Premium and PE and Sports Funding statements, and the “Local Offer” for Special Educational Needs as well as information on governing body interests and attendance.

Strategy and Planning

Each term Governors undertake learning walks to monitor and challenge progress against School Development Plan objectives. These are updated following analysis of data for Key Stage One and EYFS results each year, to ensure that all children reach their full potential while at Prior Heath. During this academic year, learning walks are planned to monitor Safeguarding, Maths, Science, Computing, Pupil Premium, SEN, RE, PE and English. Additionally governors are also to conduct a pupil survey with these objectives in mind.

School Policies

The following policies/documents were agreed for adoption:

Governor Charging, Special Leave, Teacher Pay, Support Staff Pay, Changing Staffing Needs, Sponsorship, Data Protection and Handling, Anti-Bullying, Behaviour, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Children in Care, Drugs, Gifted and Talented, Religious Education, Relationship and Sex Education, Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC), Staff Behaviour (Code of Conduct), Visitors

Copies of all the school policies are available from the school office.

Budget

With careful management and cost savings the draft plan for 2017/18 shows an in year balanced budget at this stage.

School upgrades

The school is delighted to announce a further energy saving implementation; Surrey County Council have installed further low cost LED lighting and replacement ceilings in the ICT suite, small hall and corridor.

Academies

A special working group of governors has continued to track and investigate the evolution of the academy process to ensure that the school remains fully informed of the options and benefits. To ensure you are kept fully informed I have sent a letter detailing this process and the subsequent decision at this point in time.

Meetings during the year

The Governing Body plans to meet on Tuesday 6th March and Tuesday 3rd July 2018. In addition, the Governing Body will be holding their annual School Development Planning meeting with staff and a representative group of parents at 7.00pm on Tuesday 20th March 2018. We value the input parents provide at this meeting and further information will follow.

I would like to thank all the Prior Heath Staff for their hard work in keeping children healthy and happy while producing outstanding results again.

On behalf of The Governors I would like to wish you all a Joyful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Martyn Keates
Chair of Governors