

Prior Heath Infant School



Status confirmed 2010!

17 December 2014

Dear Parents

Following the excellent leadership from Howard Mason for over 20 years as Chair of Governors I am delighted to have been selected as his replacement and look forward to supporting the Head teacher and staff in maintaining the Outstanding status awarded to us for the last 8 years. To keep you readily informed the information below represents key elements of the Meeting of the Governing Body which was held on 25th November 2014

School upgrades

The introduction of free school meals for all children has been successfully implemented and new mobile dining tables have been purchased resulting in both saving time and improving safety for staff.

Energy saving LED tubes have been fitted to complete the upgrade of the school lighting. A new water dispenser has been installed to replace the drinking fountains for Year 1 and 2. All Computers have now been upgraded or replaced.

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. A copy is available from the office.

As this was the first full meeting of the Governing Body in the new school year, a number of appointments were made. Martyn Keates was re-elected as Chair, and Paul Heagren continues in the role of Vice-Chair. The Government has changed the rules for the composition of governing bodies, with a mandatory requirement for the new rules to be applied by September 2015. Governors discussed and agreed the reconstitution of the Governing Body under these regulations as follows; 1 Local Authority governor, 5 Co-opted governors, 4 Parent governors and 2 Staff governors which took effect from 25 November 2015.

Statutory and recommended specialist Governors were also appointed:

Link	Mrs Jill Harris
Special Needs	Mrs Batley Hammond
Children in Care/Pupil Premium/Child Protection	Mrs Dunnage
Eco Schools	Mrs Dunnage
Health & Safety	Mr Prior

Strategy and Planning

The Governing Body focuses each of its meetings on one or two facets of the Ofsted assessment criteria and one or two aspects of the School Development Plan, to ensure that plans are being effectively executed, and improvements achieved and sustained with the necessary level of evidence.

This term we looked at (SMSC) Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and the measurement of Achievement of the school to confirm our assessment and supporting evidence.

Governors have been assigned to track specific School Development Plan targets when undertaking Learning Walks to validate progress against SDP objectives. This term we looked at Science and PE and agreed the dates for learning walks for the school academic year based on School Development Priorities e.g. Literacy, EYFS, PE, SEN/ Pupil Premium provision. Mr James Prior recently helped to complete the pupil interviews/survey.

A special working group continues to track the evolution of the academy process to ensure that the school remains fully informed of the options and benefits.

The next School Development Plan meeting with staff, governors and parent representatives will be held on Wednesday 18th March 2015.

School Curriculum

We are delighted that the school has again achieved excellent Key Stage 1 results and the staff and children are to be congratulated.

School improvement priorities have been driven by the careful assessment of pupil development and the need to sustain the outstanding results achieved in 2014, with virtually every child achieving expected or more than expected progress.

Governors were informed about the successful implementation of the new curriculum in Year 1 which has provided even more exciting opportunities for children's learning. They look forward to the implementation of the new curriculum in Year 2 in autumn 2015.

The school has exceeded its attendance levels target for 2014 by reducing absenteeism, and a new target has been set for the new year. The support from all parents in this area is certainly acknowledged by the Head teacher and the Governing body.

The school website publishes all the statutory and other useful information online including the Pupil Premium and Primary PE and Sports Funding statements in addition to the Local Offer for Special Educational Needs. The school still plans to publish a prospectus as a marketing aid each year.

School Policies

The following policies were reviewed:

Health & Safety; Asbestos Management Plan; Pay; Anti-Bullying; Attendance; Behaviour; Child Protection and Single Equality.

Parents are reminded that copies of all the school policies are available in the school office, should you wish to review them, this in turn fulfils our statutory requirement to inform you of the ability to have access to the documents.

Budget

The school is operating in line with the budget for this year. All Surrey schools will receive a one-off small increase in funding from Government next year; however, everyday additional expenditure continues to increase putting pressure on future year budgets. Governors continue to benchmark spending against other similar schools and introduce savings where possible.

The Surrey Heath Learning Partnership, a partnership of local schools, offers the opportunity to pool resources and costs in a number of areas such as training, and also acts as a valuable networking aid for staff and Governors. Value for money and impact of training continues to be monitored by the school.

Meetings during the year

The Governing Body plans to next meet on 10th March 2015.

On behalf of The Governors I would like to take this opportunity to wish pupils, parents and staff a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Martyn Keates
Chairman of Governors