

Governor Newsletter Summer 2011

Dear Parents and Carers

For some time the Governing Body has been conscious that it rarely communicates directly to parents and carers of the pupils at the school about its work. Of course you have access to the minutes of our meetings, and other material is on the school's website. However, we hope that this newsletter will provide you with greater insight into the work of the Governing Body. Termly newsletters will follow.

National Picture

Every school year begins full of promise and hope for the pupils and it is the Governing Body's responsibility to ensure that the school is well staffed and resourced to provide the highest possible quality of education. Over the past twelve months the change in Government and their policy for education has led to uncertainty, and much is still unknown. As a Governing Body we have actively considered some aspects of the Education Bill and its impact on our school. This includes key issues such as finance, academy status, special education needs and the new Single Equality requirement. To ensure that the Governing Body is on top of the changes in education, a Task Group has been established to consider what impact each change would have on our school. We have pledged to put pupils first in any consideration or decision made and will ensure information is provided for parents.

Leadership changes

As you know, Miss Dorrington has requested to work part time from September 2011. She and Mrs Lycett will share the headship of the school for one year from this date. Both Miss Dorrington and Mrs Lycett with the Governing Body are excited about the opportunities that will come from working in a new and innovative way. The hard task of replacing Miss Dorrington when she retires at the end of the next academic year has begun. Another Task Group has been established to manage the succession process. The outcome of this process will be shared with parents/carers as and when it is known.

Building Refurbishments in 2011

Over recent years the Governing Body has approved a programme of refurbishment and painting within the school. This programme has focussed on the learning environment within the classroom and it is expected that classrooms in Years 5 and 6 will be completed before the new school year in September. Additional health and safety repair work has been carried out on the turning circle at the front of the school and to the flat roof in Key Stage 1. The Governors will continue to pay due attention to the buildings and the facilities available to enhance the learning opportunities for all children.

Change to the school day for Foundation/Key Stage 1 children

The Governing Body worked with Miss Dorrington to ensure that all parents were consulted on the proposed change to the school day for children in Foundation and Key Stage 1. A questionnaire was given to parents about the changes. We received 44 responses, 39 were in favour and 5 did not express a preference. A consultation meeting was held, although no parents attended this. Parent and staff comments

were considered by Governors and the Leadership team. Having followed the consultation procedure in this way, the governors endorsed the proposal. Parents were informed by newsletter that from September 2011 the Foundation Stage and Key Stage1 lunch break will be from 12.15 – 1.15 and an afternoon break of 15 minutes will be introduced. There will be no change to the timing of the Key Stage 2 lunch break. The Local Authority has been notified of this change, which will be monitored to ensure that children do have sufficient time to eat.

Financial overview and budget for 2011/12

The Governors are responsible for setting the Revenue and Capital budgets, and for monitoring/amending the budgets during the year, but with significant input from our Bursar Judith Manwaring, Sue Dorrington, and the School's Senior Management Team with advice from our Local Authority financial adviser Janet Jallow.

Schools receive 2 different types of funding each year. These are termed '**Revenue Funding**' and '**Capital Funding**'.

Revenue Funding is used to meet all of the day-to-day running costs, including staffing, premises costs (e.g. utilities, maintenance, health & safety checks), learning resources, administrative costs and bought-in services.

Capital Funding is used to meet building project costs and to purchase higher value assets that have an on-going benefit to the school, including ICT hardware.

Key Facts:

- For 2011/12 64% (61% in 2010/11) of the Revenue Funding is generated by pupil numbers – pupil numbers drop the school receives less funding
- Cambridgeshire for 2011/12 received one of the lowest allocations per pupil
- Due to the current economic climate the schools Capital funding has dropped by 80% - this impacts building and ICT projects.
- The school's Reserve balance is maintained as a contingency or 'buffer' for unexpected expenses, reductions in funding, and changes in staffing, that might occur during the year. Our aim is to spend each year's funding balance on the children at the school in that year, but also to have a strategic view to maintain financial stability for the future.

Snap Shot – Revenue Budget:

	Actual 10/11	Budget 11/12
School Income (Combined Revenue Streams)	£1,253,292	£1,256,848
Opening Reserve	£ 84,345	£97,319
Total Balance	£1,336,637	£1,354,167
School Expenditure (Employee, Premises, Resource, Admin)	£1,239,318	£1,303,664
Reserve Balance	£ 97,319	£50,503

On Behalf of the Governing Body

Dr David Lee
Chair of Governors