

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Governors' News

The governors' newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

Issue 8

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

December 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another exciting year has started at Fairlands and not least because we have seen some changes to the Governing Body. Our previous Chair, Michael Downing has decided to step down following over 6 years in the role and we would all like to thank him for all the effort and hard work that he has given to the school. However, he is not leaving the Governing body and remains as a very respected and needed advisor as well as a Governor. I was very privileged to be nominated as Chair of Governors. This is a role that I hope I can successfully fulfill and Vice Chair, Phil Swallow, will support me.

We also see two new Chairs of Committees being appointed – David Gray to the Resources Committee and Keith Smith to Teaching & Learning. Governors give their time freely and are on hand when needed to lend support to the school. It is our aim, along with the staff, to make the school the very best that it can be and give the children their best possible start in life. We can only do this with the support of the whole school community, which includes parents and carers and I hope that with your help we will continue to have happy, healthy children in our school who are ready to learn.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Teresa Callaghan
Chair of Governors

LEA Governors

Cllr Michael Downing

Mr Dan Bevis

Mrs Alison Parkes

Community Governors

Mr Phil Swallow (Vice Chair)

Rev Geoff Tickner

Mrs Teresa Callaghan (Chair)

Staff Governors

Mr Rob Staples

Miss Michelle Bridge

Mrs Rosemary Biggs

Miss Heather Stapleford

Miss Emma Verlander

Mr Ben Tweeddell

Parent Governors

Mrs Sue Hurren

Mrs Julie Jeffries

Mr Keith Smith

Mr Dave Gray

Mr Partha Kundu

Mrs Karen Oakley

Ms Melanie Edgar

NEW GOVERNORS

We are pleased to announce that we now have a full compliment of governors on the governing body. Miss Stapleford (Foundation Stage Teaching Assistant) and Mr Tweeddell (Year 5 Teacher) have both joined us as Staff Governors. We are also joined by Dan Bevis (LEA Governor) and Melanie Edgar (Parent Governor). We warmly welcome them all to the governing body and look forward to their contribution.

Miss Stapleford, Mr Tweeddell and Ms Edgar will all introduce themselves in next term's newsletter.

Dan Bevis

My full time career is as a Paramedic for the East of England Ambulance Service and alongside this, I devote some of my spare time to volunteering with St John Ambulance on the South Coast where I was born and brought up. I form one of the eight board members for that particular area and so keep fairly busy between work, volunteering and now Fairlands too!

I don't have any children but have a desire and passion for helping other people succeed. Coupled with numerous friends who are teachers at various schools across the country, I wanted to explore developing education further.

Education is key to success in later life, and I feel strongly that I would never have reached my current position in life if it weren't for the education others have given me as I've grown up. Now I want to have a part in helping others reach their potential.

Outside of work, when I get time, I like nothing more than catching up with old and new friends, usually over coffee and nice country walks! Other than that, a refreshing dip in the swimming pool keeps me awake when needed the most!

Why did you become a governor?

To broaden the work I do in the community alongside my current volunteering and I would like to help shape the future of children in the local area.

What do you enjoy most about being a governor?

Being able to have input into a fantastic group, which encourages the development of each child into an individual.

What's your favourite TV programme?

At the moment, Gavin & Stacey, but after this series I'll have to find something else to fill the time!

The last film you watched at the cinema?

Probably one of the first few Harry Potter films – it's been a while!

The best book you've ever read?

Most of my book time seems to be spent with my head in a medical textbook of some kind or another! Try it sometime.....!

Your best school moment from childhood?

Hometime usually! Definitely not mornings!

Name 3 items you would take on a desert island.

My phone (which I'm lost without!), my sunglasses and an aeroplane to escape when I'm bored?

MONEY WEEK

Under the new OFSTED framework, schools should, as part of the curriculum, enable pupils to develop workplace and other skills that will contribute to their future economic well being. No matter what path our children take in life, money will always play a part. We, at Fairlands, believe that it is important to introduce the concept of money at an early stage in a child's education.

This is why we recently launched our annual Money Week across the whole school, which proved to be a huge success. The Money Week activities were mainly taught through maths lessons, with class shop role-play areas and children buying items and giving the correct change. Lots of practical money maths activities were held with children playing money games, discussing the importance of money and understanding why we need it for both spending and saving. We paired older and younger children and they discussed pocket money and savings.

We held a fair after school, towards the end of the week that was attended by a huge number of children and parents. Each year group made something in their class relating to their curriculum topic to sell on the day. Foundation stage made the most profit - £75. The children were told about the importance of thinking about others less fortunate than ourselves, and were all happy that we were donating some of the money raised to the Oxfam charity to buy a goat for somebody in another country. The children in each Year group will have a say in how the rest of the money raised is spent, as they will be able to buy something for their class or outside area.

SAFEGUARDING

The Government has defined the term 'safeguarding children' as:

"The process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing impairment of their health and development, and ensuring they are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care that enables children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successful"

Ofsted have adopted the definition used in the **Children Act 2004** and the DfES guidance document: '*Working Together to Safeguard Children*' (2006). This can be summarised as follows:

- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care, and
- undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and to enter adulthood successfully.

How will it affect the school?

Safeguarding is a concern that needs to be adhered to all school personnel, parents and children. For it to work effectively we all need to buy into it. With this in mind the school have been taking measures to ensure we meet all the requirements under safeguarding. At Fairlands Primary School & Nursery, we are concerned about the welfare and safety of our pupils and our aim is to create an environment in which the children feel secure, valued, listened to and taken seriously.

The school follows the procedures established by the Hertfordshire Area Child Protection Committee. All school staff are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour and failure to develop because they have daily contact with children. They are all aware of the important role the school has in the early recognition of the signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect and the appropriate referral process.' Working Together to Safeguard Children' (1999 DoH) requires all schools to follow the procedures for protecting children from abuse. With this in mind the school has all the appropriate procedures in place for responding to situations in which they believe that a child has been abused or are at risk of abuse. These procedures also cover circumstances in which a member of staff is accused of, or suspected of, abuse. A Designated Senior Person has been nominated and trained and has the responsibility for coordinating all the actions within the school and liaising with other agencies. We also have specific governors nominated and trained to oversee and support Safeguarding policies and issues.

Safeguarding Children in Education also states, "Parents should be made aware of the school's Child Protection Policy and the fact that this may require cases to be referred to the investigative agencies in the interests of the child".

What measures are in place in the School?

- Child Protection and Health and Safety policies are in place and adhered to by all members of teaching and support staff.
- All teaching and support staff have had a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check carried out on them and documented.
- We ensure that accurate records relating to individual children are kept separate from the academic file in a secure place and marked 'Strictly Confidential'.
- All the outside fencing area has been improved (the new black fencing) to ensure the safety of the children in all outdoor spaces.
- We aim to provide guidance to parents, children and staff about obtaining suitable support, this includes Parentline Plus.
- We promote children's good health and well-being.

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| PARENT FORUM |
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You may be aware that Mr Staples holds a Parent Forum every half term to which all parents/carers are invited to discuss any suggestions/queries/issues with the school. Next term we are holding a Parent Forum on Wednesday 3rd February from 6pm until 7pm. Our Chair of Governors will be attending along with other Governors so please come along if you would like to raise anything. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.