



Governors' Newsletter – Summer 2016

New Governor

We were delighted to appoint a new Co-opted Governor – Liz Rickaby – to the Governing Body in May. Liz has a background in marketing, having worked in the pharmaceutical industry in the early part of her career. For the last 16 years, she has worked for a national charity which provides career advice and training. Appointed as a Director in 2010, Liz has specific responsibility for business development and growth. This means the Governing Body now has a full complement of 15 Governors. We are extremely pleased with the calibre of people we have recruited over the past year and the range of skills and experience we can now offer the school collectively.

Governor Day

We had a fantastic turnout for the 'Governor Day' on 16 June with 10 Governors spread across the different year groups. Governors had the opportunity to spend the morning and lunchtime in school to see the children at work and chat with them. We always ask Governors to give feedback following their visits to school – this is taken on board by the Senior Leadership Team and informs the focus for future visits. On this occasion, Governors were asked to look at, amongst other things, reading, writing and work on display. Here are just a few of their comments:

'In general there is a greater sense of pride in pupils' achievement demonstrated by the lively displays around the school that proclaim and demonstrate higher standards of attainment.'

'All students were extremely polite, helpful and friendly. The majority of Year 6 students mentioned that, although they were looking forward to the move to secondary school in September, they would miss Staplehurst School.'

'One of the display boards was simply titled 'Best Work'. Each pupil had a piece of story writing on display and collectively it showed that these young writers had indeed risen to the challenge of producing a piece fit for this purpose.'

'Pupils were confident and articulate when talking about their work. They were polite and aware of visitors in school.'

'The team in EYRS have the children so engaged and willing to learn that there are always a lot of happy faces. There is certainly a high level of expectation not only on the children's work but also their behaviour and conduct.'

SATs

Firstly we would like to say thank you to parents and pupils in helping us to achieve a fantastic 100% attendance rate for the SATs. We are still waiting to hear back regarding some appeals, but it looks as though our results will reflect the uncertainty which has been experienced across the country with the introduction of the new tests this year.

Traffic Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey which we issued in May – your suggestions are being taken into account. Mrs Farthing is having ongoing meetings with Councillors Louise Brice and Eric Hotson to discuss possible ways to improve the congestion and address inconsiderate parking outside the school gates. The Governing Body is also looking at ways to help. In the meantime, please can we ask once again that all parents show consideration for each other and local residents and, most importantly, are mindful of the children's safety at all times when parking and driving to and from school.

Pre-School

The Governing Body is looking into the possibility of opening a pre-school on the school site. In order to gauge potential demand and ensure that future plans effectively reflect local need, a survey will be issued. If this is something which may be of interest to you, please take the time to complete and return the survey.

Summer Holidays

We are delighted to welcome the Playscheme back this summer from 2 to 19 August and hope that you will support this fantastic use of school premises.

Finally....

We would like to wish our Year 6 students every happiness and success at their new schools in September and hope that you all have an enjoyable summer break.

How to contact us

If you wish to raise an issue about the governance of the school, please feel free to write to the Chair via the school office or email: office@staplehurst.kent.sch.uk.