

## **Recreation Road Infant School – December 16 Update from Governors**

**Hello from the Governors, and a warm welcome to new families who've joined the school.**

### **Our School Performance**

- Analysing our pupil attainment data, we are really pleased to see that despite so many changes to assessment and curriculum by the Department for Education last year, our pupils have achieved higher than national averages across Reading, Writing and Maths in Year One and in Phonics.
- Well done to our pupils and thank you to Michael Bunting and the leadership team for providing a thorough analysis and to all the staff.

**Judith Hanlon, Chair, Teaching & Learning Committee**

### **Difficult Financial Climate**

- As you might be aware schools are increasingly finding it difficult to manage within budgets.
- One of the governors' main responsibilities is to ensure that the school is run in a financially responsible way – effectively operating within our means.
- Kathy Collins, our Finance Manager and Serena Dixon, as well as our Governing Board's Resources Committee, have done an excellent job of ensuring that the school achieves maximum value in an effective way, so, at the moment, we are operating within our means.
- From April 2017, it is likely that the school will be faced with a significant cut in its budget (5-10%) by the local authority to fund the increasing Special Educational Needs in Norfolk.
- We are waiting for this to be confirmed in the next few months, what exactly this will mean for our school, but it is likely that, as a result, we will need to make some difficult decisions as a Governing Board to ensure that we continue to be financially responsible. We will keep you posted.

**Simon Bloomfield, Chair, Resources Committee**

### **Other Areas of Focus in the Last Term**

- Monitoring Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) provision: our link Governor, Marion Flaxman meets with our SENDCO, Naomi Potter, regularly to review provision and outcomes for our SEND pupils. A recent questionnaire has given us positive feedback regarding the work of staff introducing pupils to school.
- Our Health and Safety Link Governor, Matthew Hartley has attended this term's fire evacuation where he noted a professional and effective procedure in action.
- We have been monitoring teachers' performance management and have undertaken the Head Teachers' review. Thank you to the staff for all their hard work and commitment to professional development.
- We have reviewed several policies this term, including: Teachers' Pay, Finance Policy, Parent & Carer Behaviour and Respect Policy and Use of Photographs and Digital Images.

### **Christmas Performances**

- We're looking forward to the children's Christmas Performances and seeing you in school.
- Please refrain from taking photographs or videos during the performances as we do have pupils who have not given permission for photos/ video to be taken as it could compromise their safety.
- We understand that as parents you will want to record the event, so we will arrange a photo opportunity for you at the end. Thank you for your co-operation in advance.

## **Saying Goodbye**

- We will be saying goodbye to Keith Clays, our evening Caretaker, who is retiring after many years in the role supporting all the local schools. We would like to say a big thank you and wish Keith a happy retirement.

## **Communication with Parents & Carers**

- As a school, we value good open communication with parents and carers. The governors support how the school does this in various ways.
- Parents are invited to come into their child's classroom to see their work and discuss it with staff.
- Classes send weekly newsletters with learning updates and dates of planned events. If there are issues that you wish to discuss with staff, appointments can be made through the school office.
- We always aim to meet with parents to seek resolution of any issues, working in line with our policies and where necessary taking advice from Local Authority and Legal Services.
- If you feel as a school we are not dealing satisfactorily with your concerns please look at our complaints policy on our website.

## **Next Term our focus will be**

- Planning and holding our Annual Governors in School Day. Previously we've focused on reading, Imaginative Inquiry and Continuous Provision in Early Years. Our focus this year is on Equalities and Inclusion. We will spend the day in school observing lessons, spending time in the outdoor areas, and talking with pupils, staff and parents. All these activities link into the School Improvement Development Plan.
- We will commence Budget Setting for 2017-18, working on strategic planning for the future.
- Our annual Safeguarding audit is scheduled for the Spring Term.
- We will continue our monitoring of Health and Safety risk assessments and our systematic review of school policies, including Anti-Bullying and Behavior.
- We are looking forward to attending parent workshops on Mantle of the Expert and Maths.

## **Your Governors**

We warmly welcome our two new co-opted Governors, Jonathan Mawer and Chris Pape. We now have a full board of governors, led by our Chair Marion Flaxman and Vice-Chairs Judith Hanlon and Simon Bloomfield.

If you would like to speak with the governors, please email contact the school office on 01603 457120 or [office@recreationroad.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@recreationroad.norfolk.sch.uk). Further information about governors, the school's aims and values, curriculum and learner values, is at [www.recreationroad.com](http://www.recreationroad.com)

**Happy Christmas and best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year – from the Governors**