



# News from the Governors

March 2017

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A big thank you to all the parents, children and staff who took time to stop and talk to us during the recent parent/teacher evenings, your comments help us keep in touch with our wider school community views. We are pleased that your feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive, there are areas for development and these are being discussed during Parent Forum meetings. If you haven't yet been to one of the Parent Forums do please give them a try, Mrs Rostron is holding them at different times of day to enable as many parents as possible to come along.

Governors have been interested in knowing more about how those children who come to us from other nurseries and other schools settle in to our school; your feedback on this aspect is good, you have told us that your children have settled and integrated well and are happy at Calcot.

## **School Priorities this year**

Every school will have a school development plan (SDP) - this ensures that the school is constantly evaluating their performance and identifying where they can improve. For us our priorities this year are

- to improve in maths, reading and writing through the setting of challenging targets,
- to further develop the pupil voice and the whole child by encouraging every pupil to feel they can make a positive contribution to their own lives and the lives of others, and
- to develop the nursery and outside space to enhance child initiated learning.

## **Our meetings this term**

Monitoring the progress of our SDP is the focus for governor meetings. We have met twice this term as a full governing board and also through committees. Governors welcome presentations from members of staff to inform us about areas of the school.

Lucy Houseman, Early Years team leader came and discussed how we can improve the promotion of the nursery through the school's website and Open Days, and how the Forest School programme can be extended to other year groups. Deputy Headteacher Nicky Bate briefed us on the school's work to prioritise improvements in maths, and we reviewed the challenging targets set for all year groups in maths, reading and writing. Inclusion Manager Emma Kirkby gave us her termly update on how the pupil premium grant has been used this year. The school's new software programme, Provision Map, enables staff to monitor every intervention happening in the school to see whether it is successful.

Staff and governors are conscious that we are due to receive an Ofsted inspection at some point this year. Mrs Rostron gave us a full and comprehensive report evaluating the school

against the areas Ofsted will look at - **Achievement & Attainment, Leadership & Management, Safeguarding, Quality of Teaching & Learning & Assessment, Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare, Early Years Provision, and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural.** You may be aware that the school was identified as a 'coasting school' and in January we provided the Regional Schools Commissioner with a report on what the school is doing to improve. Governors are confident that staff have identified the areas that require improvement and are working hard on the steps needed to effect improvement.

**Finance, Health Safety & Sites** prepare a document entitled the *Schools Financial Values Standard (SFVS)*; this is an evaluation of *practice* against a list of 25 questions posed to ensure financial probity; this document has to be completed every year. School funding (or lack of it) is high on the agenda and all schools are awaiting the outcome of the national consultation on the proposed changes to the funding formula. Next year will be challenging; we do have a strong history of controlling our budget well and governors appreciate the hard work of our School Business Managers Jane Henna and Helen Carne who monitor our finances closely.

**Personnel** have been involved in staff recruitment, reviewing the school's staffing structure to ensure it is fulfilling the needs of teaching and learning and how the school can improve staff wellbeing to relieve work-related stress.

**Curriculum** reviewed the school's Assessment policy for pupil progress and carried out work scrutinies in maths. Kath Howard and Samir Mahmutovic, our Maths Governor, attended the Maths Evening held earlier in the term. Parental feedback on this was that you really enjoyed this and would like more of these evenings to help you help your children.

To find out more about our meetings and the activities governors have been involved in this term do go to the *Governors* page on the school's website - <http://www.calcotschools.co.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=22>

### **Governor Recruitment**

We are still looking to recruit three governors. If you would be interested in becoming a governor at our school, or you know someone who you feel would be ideal as a governor, please do get in touch with us.

Wishing you all a restful Easter break

Julia Kidd & Kath Howard  
Joint Chairs of Governors