

# Moulton Primary School Governors' Update – March 2016

It feels like the school has been on heightened alert for a number of months now. Like an expectant father waiting for the call to say that labour has started, so the school waits for confirmation that the Ofsted visit is about to commence. Unfortunately, despite being somewhat overdue, we continue to wait and were recently informed that the period between inspections could be as long as 30 months, which would take us up to the end of the summer term.

While the waiting is frustrating in many ways there are some positives. The delay has provided additional time to continue the improvements that have been put in place and to give them time to bed in. Many visitors have commented positively on the appearance of the school, with pupils' work on display demonstrating some of the exciting topics they have been covering. The potential downside of the delay is that the work on the expansion of the school may have commenced by the time Ofsted arrive, though we are confident this will not prove too much of a distraction.

Much of the governors' time recently has been spent looking at the impact that the many new initiatives have had on the progress that children are making. We have looked at a number of different groups of children to make sure nobody is being left behind. You may well have heard the phrase "life without levels" being mentioned, which reflects new government policy and the staff have done a fantastic job of adapting to the new systems that are in place. Added to this, the school has been working with a new curriculum and adopting a new approach to how maths is taught in school.

The governors also have a responsibility for approving the school's budget, a task that never seems to get any easier with many ways to potentially spend the available money. Added to the things that we want to spend money on that benefit the children, especially in their learning, we also have to spend money on a building that has seen better days. Some of the money spent is necessary to ensure that the health and safety of the children and staff is not compromised in any way. We will produce a summary of the school's financial picture in the new term to help answer any questions you may have.

Thanks to the many parents who recently filled in a survey at the parents' evenings as it provides a valuable insight into how people feel the school is performing. The good news is that the results were positive overall and a detailed summary will also be sent out next term. Any issues highlighted by the survey are also being considered and will be addressed, wherever possible.

I would like to end this update by saying a massive thank you to the staff of the school for their commitment over the past few months. As well as having to be constantly ready for the upcoming Ofsted visit and dealing with the changes mentioned above, they have ensured that the children in the school have been able to do many extra-curricular activities. The progress children make in their core subjects will always be important but the school also wants to offer other opportunities to the children. Just some of the activities that our children have been involved in since Christmas are Young Voices; Strictly Junior; the Big Sing at the Derngate; Cross country trials; netball and basketball tournaments; sports day at Moulton College; Year 4 residential to Everdon and the wind band performing as part of the Music for Youth festival. This is a fantastic list of events and is a credit to the school as a whole and particularly the children involved.

As well as the staff, thanks to all the children and parents who commit to these events and put in so much time and effort in practicing and preparing for them. On behalf of the governors I wish you a Happy Easter and hope you are able to enjoy a relaxing and enjoyable break.

**Kelvin Yarker - Chair of Governors**

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