

Moulton Primary School Governors' Update – January 2017

I would like to start this update by wishing everyone connected with the school a very happy New Year. You will each have your own views on whether 2016 was a good or bad year on the whole, though I think it is fair to say that it was certainly momentous for a number of reasons. Though on a much smaller scale, 2016 was also an important one for the school. After waiting for several months, Ofsted finally inspected the school in July and it was with a mixture of relief and satisfaction that they reported that the school is good in all areas.

This was particularly welcome given the other significant event of 2016, the start of the expansion project. The expansion is progressing well and is due to be completed in the summer, in good time for the start of the next school year in September. Hopefully you will agree that the disruption that has been caused has been kept to a minimum and I must thank the positive and flexible attitude shown by so many people to make this possible. If you want to know any more about the expansion, do let us know and we will be happy to answer your questions.

While the findings of the Ofsted report were welcomed, the governors continue to support Mrs Bastin and the rest of the team to deliver further improvements. As part of this process, a detailed School Improvement Plan is regularly updated to ensure it reflects the current position and the key priorities for the school. The plan includes specific elements where the governing body can have an impact, whilst also providing detailed milestones to help assess progress against the plan. This is done in conjunction with the Local Authority and our School Improvement Manager recently visited the school and was impressed with the improvements made since September.

Other areas which have been on our agenda in recent months include the impact of government policy on the school. You may have read of proposals to force all schools to become academies and this is something that has been discussed with other schools in our cluster group. Note that this does not mean the governors are planning anything at this stage - any decision would include consultation with parents - but it is worth knowing as much about the process as possible in the event that it is ever needed.

You may also have seen information regarding the funding of schools. The government is trying to provide a more consistent level of funding per pupil compared to the current position where some areas receive far more per pupil than others. The initial findings suggest that schools in Northamptonshire are currently underfunded and will benefit from the proposals. These proposals are at an early stage and if they are brought in it may not be for several years. One of the key tasks of the governors is to approve a balanced budget with many areas competing for funding. While our Victorian building is a delight in many ways, the maintenance can prove expensive and the governors' priority is always to allocate as much of our resources to teaching and learning as possible.

The governors would also like to thank all of you who supported the Christmas Fair in December, which was so brilliantly organised by FOMPS. It was a huge success and provides much needed funds for the school. It would be great if even more people could get involved in such events and I know FOMPS would welcome any support that people can offer.

The school said goodbye to Mrs Denny in December, following her decision to retire after many years of dedicated service to the school. She will be greatly missed, though I am sure she will still be seen helping out in the school from time to time. We wish her a very long and happy retirement.

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