

Moulton Primary School Governors' Update – July 2017

As we reach the end of the school year I am pleased to provide you with this update, covering some of the things that the governors have been looking at over the past year.

The biggest change we have seen has been related to the new extension which grew quickly at the start of the school year and is now nearly complete; we currently expect the keys to be handed over to the school by the end of July. This will allow staff members to access the school over the holidays so that the classrooms are fully ready to go when the children return in September. The introduction of the additional class in Reception has worked well this year and from September we will have 3 classes in Year 1 as well as welcoming 3 classes for our new Reception intake.

The building work has gone pretty much as expected in terms of both budget and timescale, meaning there will be little disruption to the school from September onwards. Massive thanks have to go to everyone for their flexibility and support over the past few months with a number of teachers moving classroom, relocating to temporary settings. The fact that these moves have had minimal impact on the children's learning is testament to the fantastic attitude shown by all our staff.

From September we will be able to fully utilise all the new classrooms as well as having the new studio, for PE and other activities. We also expect to have the fully refurbished library up and running and would encourage everyone to make full use of this excellent facility. It will no doubt take a bit of getting used to but we are confident that the new facilities and space that we will have are going to be a huge positive for the children at the school.

As governors we continue to focus on key areas of the school's development through the 3 main committees that we operate. The Learning and Achievement committee scrutinises the School Improvement Plan and regularly receives updates and presentations from members of staff on a range of topics. Despite receiving a rating of good from Ofsted a year ago there has been no let-up in the desire and drive to keep improving across the school.

The latest set of results, whilst by no means the only way we judge the success of the school, have been really positive in Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 and congratulations go to all the children involved who have been sitting tests this year. We also focus on safeguarding and the wider welfare issues that impact the school; there has been a lot of focus on the mental wellbeing of the children and this was recognised earlier this year with the receipt of a silver award from CAMHS.

Our resources committee looks at the school's finance and personnel issues, including setting the budget for the next 3 years. Given the current political uncertainty, this has not been the easiest of tasks and the governors have worked hard to ensure that the necessary level of funding is available in the right areas to keep the school progressing. Whilst there are encouraging signs that we will benefit from the new funding formula, this is still to be finally confirmed and a lot could still change.

The Premises and Health & Safety committee has helped oversee the expansion project and we are grateful for the hard work they have put in there. As well as the expansion, a number of other areas of the school building and site have needed work and, given the age of some of the buildings, this will inevitably continue to be the case each year.

As well as each of the committees the full governing body looks at all the school's policies to keep them up to date and deal with any strategic matters that arise. The issue of whether or not the school should become an academy continues to bubble away close to the surface and the governors have spent time understanding the potential impacts of such a move. To be clear, no decision would be taken without full consultation with all interested parties; the governors are simply taking a responsible course of action by being as well informed as possible should the need arise.

Sadly, a number of members of staff are leaving the school this summer and I want to thank each of them for their hard work and dedication during their time here. Sue Fisher, our Finance Manager, has been with us for many years and leaves with our very best wishes as she starts her well-deserved retirement. School budgets have come under increasing pressure and scrutiny over recent years and Sue has done a great job of keeping us on track. Debbie Coates, currently our business manager, is expanding her role to cover much of Sue's responsibilities and will do a great job as her replacement.

Three of our teachers are leaving, Miss Brack, Miss Graham and Mr Law, and we are sorry to lose each of them but understand the reasons for their departures and the opportunities they are taking up. Not sure I can see the attraction of the Cayman Isles relative to sunny Moulton but each to their own. . . Mr Law has also been a valuable member of the governing body over the past 3 years and his contributions there will also be missed.

Miss Eason, one of our TAs starts a Teacher Training course in September and goes with our support and very best wishes; we are expecting to see her back for part of her placement next year so it is more a case of au revoir than goodbye. Mr Allard, our IT technician has also left to the school to take up a role elsewhere and his support will be greatly missed by the school staff; we have got a temporary replacement, in Mr Sadler, who has been a great help so far.

We have also recently been joined by Miss Chipps, Miss Inglis and Mr Masters; they have joined the school as newly qualified teachers and have had the last 3 weeks of term as an induction, getting used to the way the school operates and the unusual layout of the building. This will be a great advantage for them as they start with their new classes in September, when we will also be joined by Miss Jeffrey who is currently teaching at an outstanding school in Leicestershire. I am sure all 4 will prove to be great additions to the team here at Moulton.

I would also like to mention the fantastic work done by the team at FOMPS. This year has seen many regular events that are fast becoming annual fixtures in the diary, supported with events such as the circus which was not only extremely successful from a fundraising point of view but was also an extremely enjoyable evening for all those who attended. Special thanks go to Andrea Singh and Tanya Osborne who step down from their roles as Chair and Treasurer respectively, they have both made huge contributions to the work of FOMPS and the role it plays in providing vital funds for the school.

We also have one of our governors leaving us; Ian Evenden steps down from his role as a parent governor as his son leaves the school. Ian has provided invaluable support in a number of areas but particularly in his understanding of many of the rules and regulations that impact the expansion.

Thanks must go to all of the staff for the incredible hard work they have put in over the past year. As governors, we are not interested only in academic results and it is fantastic to see all the other events put on for the children by our staff. These include many performances by our musicians and choir, our Strictly Come Dancing Teams and the various sport teams that have competed locally. There has also been the Year 4 and Year 6 residentials, many trips linked to the curriculum and even a sleepover at the school. There are no doubt many more and they all add up to providing a broad range of experiences for the children in the school.

I would like to finish by wishing each of you a very restful and enjoyable summer. If your association with Moulton Primary School is coming to an end, we particularly wish you well and hope that you take with you memories of the school that are overwhelmingly positive; all the best for the future.

Kelvin Yarker - Chair of Governors

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