

# Moulton Primary School Governors' Update – Spring 2018

As governors, we've been trying different ways of updating you with what has been going on and you have hopefully seen the updates that have followed each of our meetings. We thought it would be useful to provide a more detailed update at this stage, as a lot has been going on recently.

For the last couple of years the biggest challenge facing the governors was the extension to the school and the accompanying changes that has brought. We are delighted with how everything has gone and are really pleased with the exciting opportunities the new facilities afford us. With the extra space has also come extra children and it is extremely encouraging that 86 children have been allocated Moulton in the first wave of primary school allocations; recent behavior suggests we should be welcoming a full intake of 90 children when we start the 2018/19 academic year.

Setting and approving the school's budget has been another key task. With total income now approaching £2m, this is quite a complex matter, particularly as some of the income isn't confirmed until well into the financial year. As well as ensuring that the most appropriate staffing structure is in place, the governors have to ensure that all areas of the curriculum are well resourced and that money allocated for specific purposes, eg pupil premium or PE grants, is correctly spent. The budget that has been set for the financial year we have just started, manages to balance these requirements.

A key decision that the governors have taken recently is to invest in the infrastructure of the school, particularly the older parts of the building. Having a nice new extension has lots of advantages but it has also highlighted the maintenance required in the rest of the school. As a result, the decision has been taken to replace the boiler that heats the majority of the school, replace the main flat roof and to erect fencing to improve security across the site. To keep the project as environmentally friendly as possible, we are hoping to install solar panels, which will help pay for some of the work initially and reduce the school's energy bills in the long run.

The academic results of the school are clearly important as we want to ensure that each child in the school achieves their potential. However, we also recognise the importance of ensuring that each child has the opportunity to develop skills in a wide range of activities. It has been extremely pleasing to see the evidence of so many of these activities over recent months. There are so many activities that I could mention but it is worth highlighting just a few.

For a primary school to have its own orchestra is remarkable enough in itself, to achieve such outstanding results so quickly is a testament to the hard work of all those involved. Progressing to the national music for youth festival is a fantastic achievement and one which everyone should be proud of. Success in cross country, Junior Strictly, netball and hockey has also come alongside a range of music, sports and art activities. The governors are very supportive of the school's progress towards achieving the next Artsmark accreditation and were pleased to support the recent staff training day.

The governors have also been considering the implications of the new GDPR requirements. You will be hearing more from the school about this in the near future. Whilst it isn't necessarily the most exciting of topics, it is important that we make sure we get our response right.

One final thing, please be considerate when dropping your children at the school. There really is no excuse for stopping on Church Hill to let your little ones out, for parking on the zig zag lines outside the school, or for reversing on and off the school drive just to save a couple of minutes. There is plenty of parking in and around the village and the safety of our children is of paramount importance, please don't do anything to jeopardise that.

Thanks for your continued support, we hope you enjoy the summer term.

**Kelvin Yarker – Chair of Governors**

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