

Monkhouse Primary School

Governors' Newsletter - April 2016

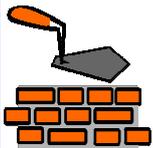


Welcome to the summer term, which promises to be busy and eventful in school as always. Our governors – volunteers made up of local professionals, parents and members of staff – will continue to meet regularly to scrutinise all aspects of the school's performance and operations, to help ensure things are being done as well as they can be and discuss ideas for improvement.

Meetings of all the governor committees take place every term including finance, premises and curriculum and standards. Termly full governor meetings also take place where Mrs Goodsell gives a full evaluation of how things are going across the board and all governors hear about what has been discussed in committees.



Building Work



The building work is going very much to plan at the moment, fortunately unhindered by not too much bad weather.

The Governors are aware of the inconvenience this causes and the concerns parents have about some aspects. The site manager is constantly updating the school about what is going on and when and due diligence is given to all health and safety issues.



New Deputy Headteacher

Governors joined senior staff on the interview panel for our new deputy headteacher and are looking forward to welcoming Miss Dawson to the school in September.



Selected highlights from the latest full governor meeting:



Discussion included the impact being made by the Rock Stars maths system, introduced to help pupils memorise multiplication tables – it was reported to be working very well.

Governors heard that much more practical maths is being undertaken in class and there had been a successful maths training day for staff. An external trainer has been booked to visit the school to carry out a maths MOT – to look at how the subject is taught in school and offer suggestions for further improvement.

With recent incidents of radicalisation of children in Britain, all schools are required to ensure they have an understanding of the risks, signs and necessary responses to any fears. In line with Government requirements, specific training has been undertaken by Monkhouse staff and a governor. More broad safeguarding training is continually taking place.

Governors and staff are looking closely at the options to ensure parents have choice regarding before and after school care. There is now a strong possibility, given that there is sufficient need to make it viable that the school will be able to offer before and after school care from September.



Senior staff continue to monitor teaching and learning closely, regularly observing lessons and reviewing marking in books. Governors also sit in on these evaluations. In addition, the school works with other nearby schools to consider how lessons and learning match up. All observations indicate lessons at Monkhouse are good and in many cases outstanding and marking is of a very good standard.

