

# Monkshouse Primary School

## Governors' Newsletter - March 2015



### Investment in making lessons even better



An exciting new lesson planning system has been bought for the school to help teachers deliver topics in new, fresh and really engaging ways.

Governors approved the purchase of Curriculum Cornerstones, which is a set of detailed topic books to help teachers plan lessons from Early Years through to the end of Key Stage Two. The plans help teachers make additional checks to ensure that all curriculum areas are being addressed, give new ideas on how to deliver topics and offer opportunities to visit lots of different subjects via the same topic. The system helps ensure the same high quality lessons are being taught across the school by encouraging a consistent approach to lesson planning and delivery.



As a result of pupil interviews where some children said they did not enjoy RE as much as some other subjects, additional investment has been made into a new scheme of work – Discovery RE. This is an enquiry based scheme in which each topic begins with a question. It is hoped this fresh approach to teaching RE will enthuse the children. It will be implemented in September. Investment has also been put into a computer system to streamline administration functions, ensuring pupil information only needs to be input once and continues to remain up-to-date and secure. This will also enable the school to introduce assessment without levels. An additional benefit of this system

will be the reports it is able to generate for governors' monitoring activities.

### School meals provider



Chartwells will take over provision of school meals from 1<sup>st</sup> June, following on from the positive feedback to the food tasting session.

Having seen the quality of the food on offer, governors and Mrs Goodsell hope more children will be keen to order school meals.

Full details about ordering and menus will be made available soon. For those not entitled to free school meals, the cost will be **£2.30 per day**.

### Governors visits and teaching appointments



The school has recently been interviewing for two additional teaching staff and, in addition, Miss Majer, green class reception teacher, has now been made a permanent member of staff.

Governor Mrs Jordan sat in on the interviews for the new staff and appointments will be confirmed soon.

Governor Mrs Robson has also visited the school to undertake work scrutinies with the Senior Leadership team relating to KS2 books. In addition, Mr Lilley, Chairman of the Governors, has continued to meet with Mrs Goodsell every week to keep up-to-date with all that is going on in the school.



### Building works



Mrs Robson took an active role in ensuring the recent works to the school's boiler and pipes were finished to a high standard. Governors are also very involved with overseeing the building works on the new classroom, which are now getting under way.

Mr Pittam drew up a list of questions for the site meeting before the works got under way. In addition governors have agreed to increase the frequency of premises meetings while the work is ongoing to ensure the highest health and safety standards are retained and everything remains on track.

### Nursery improvements

Improvements to the nursery outdoor area will get under way soon to bring the space alongside the nursery building into use.

The outdoor area to the left of the entrance is going to be overhauled with safety flooring and artificial grass. The out-of-use rope bridge will be removed, but the new mud kitchen and sand pit will remain.

Please contact the school if you would like to secure a place for your child in September as there are still some places available.

### Technology in the classroom



A bank of new I-pads are being well used throughout the school, governors were pleased to hear. Mrs Wheatley (ICT Co-ordinator) gave a presentation at one this term's full governors meetings to explain how valuable the I-pads and other recent technology investments are.

Governors approved the purchase of the I-pads and high quality security to keep them safe at the end of last year. Since September, the I-pads have been used in lessons to allow pupils to carry out research at their desks, take photographs, create films and videos and much more. It means pupils are able to use computer technology other than in the computer suite.

Large tilt-top interactive tables are also being widely used in nursery and reception and additional IT work is being made available to every class this year with visits from the company Enriched It.

