

Long Lane Primary

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a very busy year for Long Lane celebrating its 50th anniversary. The staff and governors put so much effort into making this celebration such a great success. Over 200 people joined us on our open day to look through photos and memorabilia of the school and saw all the changes that have taken place over time. It was so lovely listening to everyone's comments about their time at Long Lane and how they looked back with fond memories.

As you are aware, due to cutbacks at West Berkshire Council they have stopped funding all school crossing patrols. We have been very proactive trying to find sponsors to enable us to continue this vital role. We have been very lucky in finding sponsorship from West London Motor Group, Thai Now, Willmott's and Sansome & George who have come forward and generously agreed to fund our school crossing patrol for the next 2 years.

We are in the process of re-constituting our governing board and we are reducing from 14 governors down to 11, which will make us more effective. We are very happy to announce that Tom Hunt has joined us as a staff governor. We are looking forward to his input and ideas.

Sadly, we had two great governors depart from us this year, Martin Gubb and Darrell Forkin. We want to thank them both for all the time and effort that they put in to Long Lane.

We will also be saying goodbye to 2 other governors at the end of this term, Rick Jones and Andrew Hazell. They have both served as governors for a number of years as well as chairing committees. We are extremely grateful for all their time and dedication to our school. Thank you from all the governors.

We are busy getting ready for the new academic school year. We have completed our skills matrix and done a 360 review on the chair of governors. This data has enabled us to make our governor development plan for the new year.

Upcoming Events

1st July 2016

Charity Coffee Morning supporting Water Aid. Please do join the school council, Mr. Thorne and I from 9:00-9:45am for a coffee/tea and biscuit. It would be lovely to meet you and hear your views as we raise money for such a worthy cause.

Training Completed by Governors

Succession planning, Safeguarding, Exclusions, Effective Pay & Performance Policies, Leading Governance 4 & 5, Governor Board Business - Planning for the Year, Headteacher Appraisal 1 & 2, SEND, School Finance, OFSTED for the First Time, Assessment Without Levels, Governance Today 1 & 2, Leadership Forums

Visits Completed by Governors

SEN, Pupil Premium, Link classes, Uniform focus, Science Day, Sports Day, Health & Safety Walkabout

We are all looking forward to the challenges of the new year and striving towards outstanding.

Our new, easier to navigate website offers a governors' page including information about each governor, governing policies, attendance and meeting dates. You can find our website at <http://www.longlane.w-berks.sch.uk>

Below you will see a brief account of what some of our governors have done since the last newsletter.

Shirley Wilkinson
Chair of Governors

Andrew Hazell

It has been another busy but very successful year for the Curriculum Committee and we have been able to approve several policies.

However, updating and approving policies is not our only responsibility.

During the past year we have discussed a number of important issues facing the school, these have included.

- Reviewed the Length of the School Day policy
- Ensuring that books are scrutinised so that they continue to be of a high standard.
- Reminding staff and pupils of the importance of our e-safety policy
- Approving the changes to the school library and how books are borrowed
- Reviewing our handwriting policy

The Committee is also responsible for the Governor Development Plan, which is there to ensure governors fulfil their strategic role in supporting and challenging the school and the senior leadership team.

On a more personal note, I will be stepping down as a Governor after 7 years.

During this period, I have been a member of the Premises and Curriculum Committees. I was involved in forming the school vision and assisting in preparing the school for Ofsted inspections.

It has been a very enjoyable time and something that I will miss but with our youngest daughter soon to leave the school, I feel that the time is right to step down.

Gail Jugg

I Chair the Pay, Personnel and Finance Committee and we meet 5-6 times a year. The Committee has financial oversight of the school budget and is responsible for ensuring that the senior leadership team is efficiently managing the school's resources.

In addition, the committee is responsible for reviewing a number of the school's policies throughout the year these include the financial management policy, governor's expenses and the pay policy. The committee also reviews the financial skills analysis of Governors to ensure that the governing body has the appropriate skill set in order to perform its function effectively.

This year I have also chaired the Head Teacher performance management panel and the teacher's pay panel.

Simon Bamford

I am responsible for the oversight of the Sports Premium Grant (SPG). This is a small amount of money allocated to primary schools as a legacy of the 2012 Olympics. The school has to spend this money on providing sporting opportunities for its pupils.

I met with the Head Teacher at the end of the last financial year to discuss how to spend this year's grant. Currently the school uses the grant to pay for professional coaching to provide specialist teaching to a number of year groups, transport to sporting fixtures, sports affiliation fees and a lunchtime football club.

We have started evaluating the impact of these programs and planning how to spend the grant the school will receive in April.

Simon Hunt

I am on the Pay, Personnel & Finance Committee. We continue to manage the reduction in staff and pupil numbers, which has an impact on the school budget.

In addition, I am on the Headteacher's appraisal panel. We have met twice this year to review the Head Teacher's targets.

As Safeguarding governor, I have been monitoring the school all year.

As a link governor, I have visited Aldin class twice this year. I was very impressed with the activities they do in class.

Governors

Shirley Wilkinson (Chair)

Gail Jugg (Vice-chair)

Rick Jones

Mike Boys

Simon Hunt

Andrew Hazell

Bernadette Funnell

Simon Bamford

Andrew Richards

Tom Hunt

Peter Thorne (Headteacher)

Katie Ayres (Deputy Headteacher)

Sarah Helms (Clerk)

Andrew Richards

Over the last 6 months through work on the Premises Committee, I have provided input on the health and safety audit of the school to continue to ensure a safe environment for children and staff.

More recently with changes in the governance structure, I have taken on additional responsibilities on the Curriculum Committee.

Outside the committees, I contributed to science week and helped inspire the children with an afternoon of rocket car racing.

The governors of Long Lane School wish everyone a happy summer and we look forward to seeing you in September. I would also like to wish all the pupils in Year 6 every success with their transition to secondary school.

