

For more information about the work of the Governing Body, please visit the Governors page on the [school website](#).

If you would like to speak to the Chair of Governors please email [office@staplefordprimaryschool.org](mailto:office@staplefordprimaryschool.org) or ask at the School Office.



# Stapleford Community Primary School

## Governors' Newsletter

September 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

**We are pleased to share with you some of the work your Local Governing Body and the Anglian Learning Trust have been doing in the academic year 2018/19.**

### **Governor work**

The full Governing body has met eight times this year to fulfil its duties in supporting the school. Our annual audit of Governor skills was undertaken to ensure the best use of our expertise. We are lucky that our Governors have a wide range of knowledge and experience. Governors are assigned specific roles and report back to the Local Governing Body (LGB) when they make a school visit linked to their role. School policies have been reviewed in a regular cycle. A self-evaluation survey of governors' knowledge of the working of the Governing Body was also undertaken.

### **Head Teacher's Report**

The Governors would like to thank Mrs Spain for her openness in sharing her knowledge of the school. This positive relationship is of extreme importance to our work and something we greatly value. Through her reports at meetings we have been kept very well informed about all aspects of school life. She has answered our many questions with great patience!

### **Anglian Learning Trust (ALT)**

We have continued to work well with the Anglian Learning Trust and develop our links with other schools within the Trust. By meeting with Fen Ditton and Bottisham Primaries we have been able to share good practice and develop opportunities to further improve the education of our pupils. We have also benefitted from expertise within the Trust and are grateful to Prue Rayner, Primary Executive Head Teacher (PEXT), for her help and guidance.

### **Use of data**

Tracking data is an essential part of the Governors' work. Training was given this year by the ALT in order that we are able to interpret and use this data with greater confidence. The data informs the school's Yearly Operational Plan and Mrs Spain has reported regularly on progress made. The tracking of progress and attainment of disadvantaged pupils has been one of our priorities this year.

### **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is always our top priority and our Safeguarding Governor and Prue Rayner (PEXT) make regular visits. All Governors have completed the Safeguarding and Child Protection training and it is incorporated into all Governor visits. Short interviews were conducted with various members of staff and pupils to check safeguarding procedures are understood. The E-safety Events were extremely useful to parents, staff and governors. Four governors have now received Safer Recruitment training.

### **Maths**

Maths has been another focus for our Governors this year. We are grateful to Miss Street who gave a very informative and useful presentation to one of our LGB meetings. She explained mastery learning, the planning approach and the progression of teaching in each class.

## **Behaviour**

All governors have noticed a high level of good behaviour within the school. It has been noted that pupils move around in an orderly manner and are polite, respectful and cheerful. This high standard has also been noted in whole school situations such as assemblies and Sports Day. The governors have been very interested in the STEPs approach and are monitoring its impact on behaviour.

## **Parent Partnership / Parent Survey**

The Parent Partnership Meeting, held in May, was attended by 12 parents. Four Y5 pupils gave us a presentation about their learning experiences at Stapleford. They also told us about a session with children from Fen Ditton and Bottisham Primaries in which they shared experiences. Parents then divided into small discussion groups before sharing their thoughts with the meeting. The Chair of Governors presented the results of the Parent Survey, which had had 98 responses. The Governors had been pleased to note so many positive comments. This is a very useful meeting for both staff and governors and it was disappointing that so few parents attended. It is hoped that a better knowledge of the purpose of the meeting and perhaps different timing might lead to increased attendance next year.

## **Nursery Project**

In spite of several setbacks, the Nursery Project is now progressing well with building work being started over the summer. Funding is still needed, however, for furniture and equipment, and it is important to note that the finances of the main school and the Nursery are completely separate. We are very grateful to the Stapleford Messenger for a donation of £1100.00 and a grant from the Lottery is being applied for but any other fund raising ideas would be greatly appreciated! We very much look forward to the opening of the Nursery in January 2020.

## **Funding and Finance**

The school and the Governors Resources Committee continue to monitor school finances. Funding remains tight and is anticipated to reduce further this year. The school has worked diligently to run within budget, and has been successful in doing this without requiring significant changes. However we also acknowledge that this fortunate position is in no small part due to the generous contributions received from parents and the local community, and we offer our sincere thanks for this ongoing vital support. The school community will hopefully have noticed the improvement programme begun by Anglian Learning to bring the school's appearance into alignment with the rest of the Trust. This is planned to continue through the coming year.

Over the summer building work also started for the proposed Nursery. Parents will be reassured to hear that funding for this [the building work] is independent of the school's budget, and projections are for operation to be at least cost neutral from opening.

## **Assessment Results**

We were really pleased with the great SATs results which are stronger than both Cambridgeshire LA and the national data at most points. We are particularly pleased as we do not sacrifice a broad, balanced, exciting creative curriculum for our pupils, who achieve because of the stimulating exciting learning offered to all pupils.

80% of Reception children at Stapleford achieved 'A Good Level of Development' in summer 2019, as defined by the **Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS)**. The national average was 71.8%.

The **Year 1 phonic** score was 75.9% (National 81.9%)

In the **KS1 SATs**, taken at the end of Year 2, the proportions of Stapleford children reaching or exceeding **the expected standard** in each subject were:  
**Reading** 80% (74.9%)  
**Writing** 80% (69.2%)  
**Mathematics** 80% (75.6%)  
*Numbers in brackets are comparative national averages.*

The proportions of children at Stapleford **working at greater depth at the end of KS1** were:

**Reading** 36.7% (25%)

**Writing** 20% (14.8%)

**Mathematics** 33.3% (21.7%)

*Numbers in brackets are national averages.*

In the **KS2 SATs**, taken at the end of Y6, the proportions of Stapleford children reaching or exceeding the expected standard were:

**Reading** 89.5% (73.2%)

**Writing** 82.1% (78.5%)

**Mathematics** 85.7% (78.7%)

**Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling** 82.1% (78%)

*Numbers in brackets are national averages.*

The proportions of children at Stapleford **working at greater depth at the end of KS2** were:

**Reading** 30.3% (26.9%)

**Writing** 32.1% (20.2%)

**Mathematics** 32.1% (26.6%)

**Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling** 25% (35.7%)

*Numbers in brackets are national averages.*

The KS2 data is also used to create a **combined score of childrens' attainment in all three core subjects**; reading, writing *and* mathematics. For the 2018/19 academic year, 76.7% of Stapleford pupils were working at the expected level. National comparative score was 64.9%.

20% of Stapleford pupils were working at greater depth. National score was 11.2%.

### **Thank you to PTA**

The Governors would like to thank the PTA for all the hard work it has done throughout the year, both fundraising and the organisation of special events such as the Summer Fete. The events are a lot of fun but are also an essential part of the school's income, providing such extras as cameras and iPads; new classroom furniture for YR and Y3 classrooms; new cupboards in KS2 and new reading books.

### **Thanks to staff**

Many thanks must go to all the staff who have continually worked hard to enable the school to be so successful. Their work beyond the classroom is especially appreciated in organising special assemblies, special days and events, and trips.

### **Governing Body membership**

In July we said goodbye to Sarah Barnett who has resigned as a Parent Governor after serving for over four years. The Governors would like to thank her for all her hard work and the expertise she has shared. We will miss you, Sarah! In the Summer Term we welcomed Ed Gunn as a Trust Governor. Elections for a new Parent Governor will take place in the Autumn Term and the LGB are also looking for another Trust Governor from the wider Stapleford community. Paul Izzett has been re-elected Chair with Kate Jessop and Francesca Crawley as Vice Chairs. Our thanks must also go to Leonie Hyde, our wonderful clerk, whose knowledge of all governance matters is limitless!