

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 2020

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 over recent months.**

### School Restart

Following the difficult second half of the 2019/20 year, we are delighted to see that the school has been able to receive all age groups back for the new academic term. There are new arrangements in and around the school that follow best practice guidelines and should provide a safe and reassuring environment for pupils, parents and teachers alike. We offer a particularly warm welcome to all the new children and families, joining the school for the first time, and we hope that this year will be a happy and successful one for everyone.

### Governor Work and Appointments

The Local Governing Body (LGB) has continued to meet during the Coronavirus pandemic, with full sessions taking place virtually. Updated meeting guidelines have been applied to ensure governance standards are maintained in an online environment. No link governor visits have been possible owing to restrictions to the school site over recent months.

In July, Paul Izzett was re-elected as Chair of Governors, with Kate Jessop and Francesca Crawley elected as Vice Chairs. Clare Arthurs stood down as Associate Member and we would like to thank her for her contribution to the school, serving on the LGB since 2012, including a tenure as Chair of Governors.

Safeguarding is a key part of the governors' work, and all members of the LGB undertake their annual safeguarding training at the start of the autumn term.

### Head Teacher's Report

In the summer term, Mrs. Spain shared her Headteacher's report with the Governors. Of particular note, the report contained information relating to the revised way of working during the Coronavirus restrictions – both in school and through home learning. An equal emphasis was placed on both the education provision for the children and the outreach provided by the school to offer support and ensure safeguarding standards. We are grateful for the clear and concise view Mrs Spain was able to

provide; it is clear that the school adapted quickly and efficiently to the unprecedented challenges.

### Funding and Finance

The school and the Governors' Resources Committee continue to monitor the school's finances. The economic difficulties facing wider society over recent months have also been felt at the school. This situation has been amplified by the OOSC and Nursery being unable to open. In recent months there has been an important focus placed on minimising the budget deficit, with hard decisions being taken on how best to do this. The government catch up funding will offer a degree of respite, but this remains an important focus for the school leadership in the coming months. We acknowledge the difficult work this entails and offer our full support.

## **Home Schooling**

Since the very beginning of lockdown the school was able to provide home learning packs. These helped support the curriculum for children unable to attend school. Aside from the academic resources, we have enjoyed seeing and hearing how the children took on other learning and development activities in the home environment. Many thanks go to the families that generously shared their children's work, as well as broader experience which helped everyone to adapt to new and sometimes challenging routines.

## **Nursery**

Despite the dominance of the Coronavirus over recent months, there was an important milestone in the school's history this year that should not be overlooked. In February, the school welcomed the first children to the new nursery, with the equivalent of 26 full-time places, offering much-needed early years provision within the community. The project is the result of much hard work, dedication and ambition, and is something we believe the school should rightly be proud of.

## **School Performance**

In light of the exceptional circumstances arising from the Coronavirus disruption, no performance data for school assessments will be collated or published by the government for the 2019/20 academic year. A guidance note on the current approach to school performance

measures can be found at the government's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-school-and-college-performance-measures/coronavirus-covid-19-school-and-college-accountability>

## **School activities**

Despite the restrictions over the summer term, we were pleased to see activities outside the classroom environment starting to resume as much as possible. The first sign of this was the socially distanced picnic, organized at the end of the year, providing pupils with the chance to finally see their friends before the summer holidays. This was particularly important for the Year 6 children who would be leaving to start their secondary education.

Since the start of the new school year it has been encouraging to see music lessons up and running again. Maintenance work has now been completed on the moat and the children are once again able to benefit from this wonderful resource. Over the summer, the school was also able to host a multi-activity holiday camp run by Premier Education, which offered a welcome social respite in the wake of the Coronavirus restrictions. Along similar lines, the wrap around provision (OOSC) has started again with the breakfast and after school clubs. Hopefully these are indicators that the normal school is slowly starting to return.

## **Thank you to the PTA**

As always, we acknowledge the wonderful support provided by the PTA and, in this instance, the new and more creative ways they find to help the school. Despite the current social restrictions, registering the school in the Easyfundraising Scheme has ensured continued support during lockdown. Details of the program and how to register can be found at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

We are also pleased to confirm that one of the main PTA annual fundraising events will be taking place this term: the Stapleford Community School PTA Fun Run has taken a virtual format, attracting sponsorship from local businesses and wide support from the community.

## **Thanks to Staff**

We would finally like to extend our gratitude to everyone who has pulled together to support the school over recent months. In particular, we have seen many examples of staff showing a level of dedication and commitment that embodies the values of the school. We would especially like to thank Mrs. Spain and Mrs. Hore for their leadership during these exceptional times.