

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 or ask at the School Office.

Stapleford Community Primary School

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Governors' Newsletter

July 2021



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.

A year in review

Another academic year is coming to a close, and another year heavily impacted by COVID lockdowns and restrictions, particularly through the spring term, and we were delighted to see that the school was able to receive all age groups back for the end of that term.

As restrictions are lifted, arrangements continue to be modified and updated 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 hope that this year has been a happy and successful one for everyone, in spite of the restrictions.

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 continue to be applied to ensure governance standards are maintained in an online environment. We are also pleased that several Link Governor visits have been possible subject to the guidelines.

We have seen quite a few departures from the LGB, and we would like to extend our thanks to Paul Izzett, who has retired from his role as Chair of the SCPS LGB, Francesca Crawley for her four-year contribution to the SCPS LGB, including as vice-chair, and Ashley Wagstaff who also leaves us. Martin Brown and Edward Gunn were elected recently as co-Chairs of the LGB, whilst Kate Jessop will be joined by Mike Byrne as vice-Chair. We also welcome Victor Humberstone, elected as a Trust Governor in January. Jayne Hore, has transferred to a role as an Associate Governor in line with guidance from Anglian Learning Trust on the make up of the LGB.

From the start of the year, the governors have had a particular focus on five LGB priority areas:

- 1) Developing, monitoring and reviewing the aims, values and vision of the school.
- 2) Monitoring educational performance and standards, including the impact and provision of the recovery curriculum and remote learning.
- 3) Monitoring well-being, welfare and safety across the school including safeguarding and behaviour.
- 4) Developing, monitoring and reviewing the academy's improvement plan, including sustaining the nursery.
- 5) Developing and monitoring

relationships with stakeholders including parents and the wider community.

Head Teacher's Report

Mrs. Spain recently shared her Headteacher's report with the Governors.

In it, she outlines some of the ways the leadership team and teachers more widely are seeking to address gaps left by the impact of COVID lock-downs, and how funds made available are being deployed on core curriculum areas (including with pupils needing additional attention), and broader cultural experiences missed over the last 15 months. There is also significant investment in school infrastructure.

Funding and Finance

The school and the Governors' Resources Committee continue to monitor the school's finances. The economic difficulties facing wider society over the last 15 months have also been felt at the school. This situation has been amplified by the OOSC and Nursery being unable to open fully. Hard decisions taken at the end the last year, have released some of the pressure, but there will be a need to rebuild reserves over the coming couple of years.

Home Learning and Teaching

The Spring term was heavily impacted by the second lockdown, and need for home learning.

The governors were pleased that the school was able to offer an expanded and more interactive home learning approach compared to the initial lock-down a year ago. We are taking a keen interest in how pupils have been able to pick back up on face-to-face schooling, and the leadership's efforts to identify and address gaps in academic and wider pupil growth and well-being.

We were pleased with the general success of the remote parents' evenings, which despite limited technical issues, provided timely and convenient opportunities to discuss matters with parents.

Nursery

The nursery has had a successful first full year, and now has 26 children attending at least one session. This will provide a great way for the school to engage with the community at an earlier stage in children's development and allow a greater number of children to have the best preparation for school-life in reception.

There are often additional spaces available, and we would encourage parents to spread the word.

School Performance

No performance data for school assessments will be collated or published by the government for a second 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-school-)

Needless to say, the LGB is keen to ensure that progress and standards are being kept up at SCPS despite the absence of formal measurement. We are pleased that the Anglian Trust network, amongst other means, is being used to provide a gauge of progress nonetheless.

School activities

Despite the restrictions over the spring term, we were pleased to see activities outside the classroom environment starting to resume as much as possible, with all classes making or due to make a class visit.

Additional clubs have been held, free-of-charge, to boost the time children have with their friends and make up for weeks of relative isolation. Investment in the moat has reaped dividends, allowing a unique learning environment for the children comparatively unaffected by restrictions, to which we now add the new running track which will help with developing and encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

Thank you to the PTA

As always, we acknowledge the wonderful support provided by the PTA and, the continued creative ways they find to help the school. We would reiterate a couple of easy ways to contribute on an ongoing basis via Easyfundraising and any Amazon shopping:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>

In addition, the PTA quiz-night, Mathathon and pop-up plant sale have all contributed including to help pay for the unexpected work required for the swimming pool

boiler.

Thanks to Staff

We would like to doubly-extend our gratitude to everyone who has pulled together to support the school over the last 15 months. The effort and dedication of staff was exemplary, with workloads amplified during the lockdown as classes were held both in person for a significant minority of children and online for the majority, and since the children's return in efforts to 'catch-up'.

Lastly, we would especially like to thank Mrs. Spain and Mrs. Hore for their leadership during these exceptional times.

Thanks to you: parents, carers and friends

Throughout the COVID pandemic, there have been many ups and downs and changes to rules and recommendations, and we would like to thank you for the role you've played in minimising the impact of COVID on the school.

From wearing of masks and social distancing around the school, to the extra efforts required during periods of home-schooling, the collective effort has been appreciated and hopefully benefitted the children as periods of self-isolation have been minimised.

Summer and beyond

We hope everyone is able to enjoy the last weeks of term, and the summer holidays, and we are optimistic for a return to normality in the new academic year.