



Stapleford Community Primary School

Governors' Newsletter September 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Your Local Governing Body (LGB) continues working closely with school leaders and Anglian Learning (AL) Trust. As we start a new academic year we're sharing some of the work your LGB have completed during the academic year 2023/24.

Governor Appointments

Since our last newsletter Barbara Kettel, Eddie Ridgeon, Surabhi Khanna, and Victor Humberstone have left the LGB and we sincerely thank them for their service. We also send best wishes to Governors Katie Neate and Lauren Davies on leave during their maternities. New additions to the LGB include Judith Lomas and Will Rixon who joined in the previous year as Trust Governors, and Anna Everson who was elected unopposed as a Parent Governor. We also look forward to welcoming several more new Governors from the local community through this autumn term to bring the team back to strength.

New Governor Introductions

Judith Lomas - I'm a relatively new Governor and took on the Safeguarding role this year. I've attended meetings with other Safeguarding Governors from across the Trust to share best practice, and also undertaken training in relevant areas such as Safer Recruitment.

Will Rixon - Also new to the school last year, Will has a background in education & marketing and has been helping the school progress the curriculum, especially in English, as well as beginning to refresh the school website.

Anna Everson - Last academic year I was Link Governor for Health & Safety, Pupil Premium, and more recently, Stakeholder Liaison. I've also supported the promotion of our lovely Nursery. Each of these activities has the wellbeing of the school at its heart.

Anglian Learning Trust

Trust funding continues to improve our school - most recently with the installation of solar panels and a new air source heating system. The Trust continues to flourish and our school has benefited from Trust-wide projects, for example the Creativity Collaboratives project with the Arts Council. As last year, Stapleford continues working closely with another Trust Primary at Icknield to fine tune and improve our curriculum offers. We also continued our close work with Sawston Village College with college pupils returning to their previous school, for example to lead dance sessions which supported our school performance at the recent Trust-wide Dance Festival.

Head Teacher's Reports

Throughout last year Mrs. Rawlings presented a report about all aspects of school life at each of our six meetings, and Governors are extremely grateful to be kept so well informed about how the school continues to develop, charting progress towards meeting our vision of CARE. While school funding is now administered centrally by AL the Governors retain oversight and are pleased that despite challenges the school continues to be able to set a balanced budget while still providing all the varied opportunities to achieve our vision.

School Activities

The Governors were happy to hear about all the school's activities which provide a broad, stimulating and inclusive curriculum across all ages and abilities. We were particularly excited to hear about, and in some cases attend, sessions with the Granary as part of our **Small Grains** program. Governors would like to offer sincere thanks to all parents and partners who have supported activities across the previous and upcoming school years.

Our Local Community

Thanks to all who completed the Parent Partnership / Parent & Pupil Surveys (sent last year). Your views and comments are valued by the Governors and have been listened to. Community engagement is integral to the success of our school - engaging effectively with pupils, staff, parents and the wider community helps us understand our school better and enable decision-making by identifying our strengths and areas for improvement. **Parents are one of our most important stakeholders**. We have recently re-established **Class Reps** for extra communication alongside the usual school messages (from MCAS, HT Newsletters, emails and letters sent home). Class Reps are dedicated parents/carers from each year group who have volunteered as active contacts for the teachers, PTA and Governors to pass on important updates via class parent/carer chat groups. We hope you are finding this helpful and would welcome your feedback.

Monitoring Progress

From last year's results expected progress and pupil performance continues to meet and at times exceed national levels. Governors are aware that the staffing is vital to achieving this and of challenges following recent departures. We are very happy that the school office is now back up and running after a prolonged recruitment, and very thankful for all other staff currently stepping in across the school to support maintenance of a full range of learning opportunities. We continue to keep up pressure with the Trust to make all the necessary appointments in the next academic year to allow the school to flourish.

Supporting the PTA

Governors would like to say a huge **THANK YOU** to our hard-working PTA! Stapleford school PTA is very much at the heart of our school community and without their fundraising efforts the children would not be able to enjoy the many wonderful resources and opportunities each year that the school budget does not cover. This year PTA funds have enabled opening of our brilliant school pool, re-surfacing of our running track, as well as to help re-develop out SEND provision. Please come along to the **PTA AGM at 9am on Friday this week** and support the MacMillan Coffee Morning – joining the PTA is a great way to make new friends, get to know the school, and raise those much-needed **funds that make a positive difference to your children**.

Looking to the Future

Following the announcement at the start of term Governors wish Mrs. Rawlings all the best as she prepares to begin her new position with the Trust. Governors will support Mrs Hore as she works towards taking up the role as interim Head Teacher and will work with the Trust during the subsequent recruitment process to ensure appointment of another talented Head Teacher to maintain the school at the heart of our community.