

Fawbert and Barnard Governor Newsletter 2021

Review of the Year 20/21

The continued presence of coronavirus has meant another challenging year at F&B, but it's a challenge that the staff and pupils have all risen to. Special thanks must go to all the parents and carers ~~too~~ for supporting children with home learning during lockdown. It's extremely difficult with children as young as ours to provide full-time online learning, as well as not something the school would usually recommend, so the support and assistance of parents, grandparents and other carers has been invaluable.

Our Interim Heads and Leadership Team remain in place this term and they have been working hard to not only lead the learning during the lockdown, but to focus on supporting the children as they came back to school.

As Safeguarding and Pupil Premium Governor, I've been working alongside Rosemary Shaw (SEN Governor), Mrs Wilcox and Mrs Skipper to ensure that the school has been able to support children in school who might have additional needs, for a variety of reasons, that might impact on their learning. It has been great to see some of the outcomes of this work alongside the focus that staff have made to ensure that all pupils' wellbeing is front and centre after the return to school from home learning. The Governing Body are pleased to welcome Aimee Jones as our Inclusion Lead (this covers Pupil Premium, Children Looked After and SEN children) and Rosemary and I will work with her to ensure that outcomes improve further.

As many parents know, we were unsuccessful in recruiting a permanent headteacher in the Spring Term and were advised by our recruitment team that we may have more success advertising this term, which is something we have done. Interviews are scheduled to take place shortly and I will advise as soon as there is any news on an appointment. In the meantime, I wish to assure you that staff and Governors are working with Mrs Brooker and Mrs Wilcox just as we would with a permanent Head, formulating plans for the year ahead and further. It has been great to see how our Heads are working closely with the new head at Reedings and our Governor Leadership Teams have also met and are looking forward to working more collaboratively in the future.

As well as looking to appoint a new Head, the focus for this academic year for the Governors will be preparing for a potential OFSTED visit. The last visit was in 2009 which is fairly unusual and changes in the Inspection Framework over that time mean that schools judged outstanding haven't had visits. The Framework has changed 4 times since our last visit with the bar for outstanding being raised each time, and with the new criteria only coming into force in September 2021, it will be challenging for schools to achieve outstanding. Governors know that the school has many outstanding features so we will support staff to demonstrate this to Inspectors when (and if) they visit!

Sarah Evans, Chair of Governors
Chair of Governors

Governing Body Personnel Changes

Following our request for Parent Governor nominations, we received an application from an existing Parent Governor, Chris Male (Year R Parent), who was elected unopposed. We have also been joined by Debbie Hore, Associate Minister of Great St Mary's Church, who is a Co-opted (Community) Governor alongside Vijay Krishnarayan, whose children previously attended the school and who was Director-General of the Commonwealth Foundation.

We are still interested if parents/ carers know of any individuals who would make a good community Governor for the school: someone who has strong links to Sawbridgeworth and is invested in the school without necessarily having a link to it previously. For example, we've had Governors who are retired teachers who live in the area; or local residents with other skills of use to the school such as HR or Finance

Governing Body Meetings were still virtual...Julia's last meeting on 5th July



Parent Survey 2021

The Parent Survey that was undertaken last term has now been collated. Many thanks to Lucy Strutt, our Vice Chair of Governors for doing this and to parents and carers for responding to the survey questions. It is really pleasing to see that 89.1% of parents feel the school provides an outstanding education for their children and that very importantly the children enjoy school and are happy. As Governors we do review the data and although it is generally good, we will look and see if further steps can be taken to make the school more inclusive and that all children have equality of opportunity. We do have an Equalities Group of Governors and any parent who feels that they would like to share thoughts with them on inclusivity is welcome to contact us. You can email: lstrutt@fandb.herts.sch.uk or sevans@handb.herts.sch.uk.

The full results of the parent survey are on the school website:
www.fandb.herts.sch.uk/your-views

The Growing Garden

Governors are proud to continue their support for the school's Growing Garden and weekly Gardening Club. It has been fantastic to see pupils so engaged in learning about plants and how to care for them, and to hear stories about what they've been growing at home. Everyone was so excited to see how the vegetables and flowers had grown over the summer, and particularly enjoyed tasting some of the yummy carrots. Already this term pupils have been busy planting daffodils, tulips and pansies to keep the garden looking colourful throughout the winter, and caring for our very own minibeasts in our brand new wormery! The Governors would like to thank John and Pam Rider from Sawbridgeworth Allotment Society for all their work and support to get the garden blooming, and we very much look forward to another fruitful season next year!

