

November 2023

Acorns Governing Body News

This has been a busy term! All terms are busy but this term we have, of course, had a visit from OFSTED. Five members of the Governing Body met the OFSTED inspector on the second day of the inspection. The meeting was very friendly and very wide-ranging; we all left it feeling that we had the opportunity to say everything that we wanted to say and to give a clear picture of our knowledge of and involvement in Acorns. At this stage, I cannot comment on the outcome as the final report is yet to be published but I know I speak for the whole school when I say the inspectors were fair, approachable and very supportive. Everyone was happy with the process.

The Governing Body has met formally on 4 occasions so far this year. In early September, we had a meeting to receive updates from key staff and plan for the coming year. The two committees met in October. The School Business Manager presented our financial situation and the committee agreed plans for the coming year. In addition, the committee was updated on matters in relation to the building including a health and safety report. The Curriculum and Standards Committee received reports on pupils' progress and pupils' attendance and also a detailed presentation on the use of PE funding. This is additional funding granted to primary schools for the development of physical activity.

The full Governing Body meeting was held in November. At this meeting, we welcomed a new parent governor – Elizabeth Gunn. Elizabeth brings a great many new skills to the group and we know she will enjoy being involved. We also thank Katie Stables for her service as a parent governor – Katie was a great support to both the Governing Body and the school.

At the November meeting, we all reaffirmed our commitment to the role of governor; whilst being a governor is a very rewarding role it is also one which requires a big commitment in terms of time. The headteacher presented her report to governors which was very wide ranging. Governors were pleased to hear that our new pupils have settled in very well.

A major decision made by the governing body was to utilise monies in the Unofficial School Fund for the purchase of a new school minibus. The Unofficial School Fund is the account that contains money raised through the school's various fund-raising efforts and includes money raised through car park charges for PNE matches. Dan, School Business Manager, has been tasked with researching what is to be the best option for Acorns – this could be purchase or leasing – and hopefully will find us a good deal! Very exciting!

At the beginning of October, three of us from the Governing Body were delighted to witness Dr Rukhsana Ahmed receiving a Special Recognition Award for her service as a governor at Acorns. The award was presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Lancashire Association of School Governing Bodies. Dr Ahmed had over 20 years association with Acorns both as School Doctor and Governor – a well-deserved award!