

# Coteford Junior School

## Governing Body Newsletter

Spring Term 2024

### **Coteford Vision Session**

Earlier this term the Governing Body arranged for an experienced member of the NGA to run a vision session in school, where the governors and the Senior Leadership Team worked together to think about what we would want the school to be like in the future. This was a very useful session and we will continue to work together to develop this further.

### **Teaching and Learning Committee**

The recent Teaching and Learning Committee meeting featured the Science Lead, Sarah Raimbach, who gave us an informative presentation in which her enthusiasm for science was evident. She has created detailed lessons plans for a wide-ranging curriculum with corresponding lists of scientific words. She has also embedded a focus on using scientific enquiry type questions when carrying out experiments. The governors were impressed by what they saw and the positive impact that it was having.

### **Governors in School Day**

Last week we held our annual Governors in School Day. Governors reported seeing some fantastic maths and English teaching in action, with great focus and engagement shown by the children. One governor completed a learning walk with the SENCo team. She saw the different types of adaptations Coteford provides and how break out spaces and corridors are being used for 1:1 and small group sessions. It was also great to see that the school had provided a Ramadan room for pupils who wanted to fast and/or pray during lunchtime.

Small groups of children had the chance to speak with individual governors and share their thoughts about Coteford and how it could be improved further. The pupils showed an impressive level of online safety knowledge, which they were keen to share. Governors spoke to members of staff to learn about the challenges they face, including working long days to ensure they are able to fully support their pupils' learning. Conversations were had about the new relationship and behaviour policy and the limited space available in the smaller classrooms.

One of the governors had a tour of the school site and spoke in detail with the site manager about what he had been able to achieve this year and what areas he would like to prioritise in order for the school to remain a safe environment for all.

We would like to thank the pupils and staff for making us feel so welcome.

### **Governor News**

We are delighted to welcome our new parent governor, Ushma Sidhu, who has a child in Year 3. She has a journalism background, which has included producing media content aimed at children. She is keen to get involved and has already agreed to join the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Earlier this term, Kirsty Bower, one of our community governors, resigned. As a result of other commitments, she is no longer able to support the school in this way. We wish her well and thank her for her interest in Coteford.

### **New Chair of Governors**

Heather Middleton, our Chair of Governors, has reached the end of her final governor term of office and so will be leaving the Governing Body this week. She has been with us for many years and taken on various different responsibilities, culminating in becoming Chair four years ago. We thank her for everything she has done to support Coteford and wish her well for the future.

Our new chair of Governors is Janet Herson, who has been with us for 3 years and is the current Vice Chair. Our new Vice Chair is Roald Versteeg, who has served as both a parent governor and now as a community governor. We wish them well in their new roles.

### **Community Governor Vacancies**

We currently have two Community Governor vacancies, one of which requires someone with finance experience. This is a great opportunity for people in the local area to support Coteford. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact the school office to find out more.