



Federation of Boldmere Schools

Governor Update | Summer Term 2022

Chair's message from Greg Bloom (Chair of Governors)

Welcome to our Summer Term Governor Newsletter.

The 2021-22 academic year has been another busy year for the Federation of Boldmere Schools and I am delighted our schools have returned to normal after 2 years of uncertain and unpredictable times. We finally said goodbye to class bubbles and key worker school.

It has been a pleasure to walk around our schools and see so many happy faces from both staff and children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our children, staff and parents for their patience and support over the last couple of years. We have seen our most challenging times in education and the resilience the schools have shown has been remarkable.

Thank you to all our Governors over the last 2 years. The Full Governing Board have had to make some challenging decisions and continually adapt to constant changes to policies and procedures. There are many more challenges ahead of our schools as we recover and restore from the pandemic, however I am more than confident Boldmere will rise to the challenge and ensure each child achieves their academic potential.

Wishing all our children, staff and parents a restful summer break and see you all in September !!!

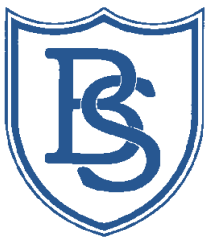
Full Governing Body and Finance/Education and Standards Committee Meeting dates 2022/2023

Our next and final Full Governing Body Meeting for the Summer term is to be held on Thursday 7th July. The dates for 2022/2023 are as follows:

Thursday	29/09/2022	4pm	Full Governing Board
Tuesday	15/11/2022	8am	FFPHS Committee
Wednesday	30/11/2022	8am	E&S Committee
Tuesday	13/12/2022	4pm	Full Governing Board
Tuesday	14/02/2023	8am	FFPHS Committee
Wednesday	15/03/2023	8am	E&S Committee
Wednesday	29/03/2023	8am	FFPHS Committee
Wednesday	26/04/2023	4pm	Full Governing Board
Tuesday	20/06/2023	8am	FFPHS Committee
Wednesday	05/07/2023	8am	E&S Committee
Thursday	13/07/2023	4pm	Full Governing Board

Governor Visit Report by Laura Shergold (Parent Governor)

Governors recently enjoyed a visit to the school which had a focus on reading and well-being. Classroom visits were undertaken where Governors were able to look at the reading resources allocated to children, the development of the teaching of reading from nursery up to Year 6 and finally, the adopted phonics scheme being put into practice. Governors also had the pleasure of listening to children from each year group read. It was an invaluable visit and really helped to understand how this area is being developed and prioritised throughout the school. It was also a joy to see all the children enjoying their reading. Thank you to all the staff for making us feel so welcome.



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Finance Committee from Dan Mortiboys, Chair.

It is true to say COVID 19 created financial challenges for the school. These challenges were not only felt when dealing with the pandemic but also during a period of recovery. With the wonderful support of the PTA and strong financial management the schools were able to exit the pandemic with a stable financial position.

The schools were able to make some carefully considered investment in 2021. This included additional IT, some additional staff to support recovery and most excitingly a refresh of the nursery equipment. This is beyond the help received from government.

Unfortunately, while the schools hoped for further stability they are now having to cope with the cost of living crisis the same as everywhere else. The funding the school receives from central government via Birmingham City Council was agreed late last year. There has been no additional funding for the school to cope with the pressure of energy costs and inflation. While the schools can deal with this in the short because of the careful planning that has been undertaken, the 'rainy day' monies will be quickly exhausted. The governing body is undertaking additional finance meetings to ensure every opportunity is taken and that the school has a realistic plan going forwards.

Even more than usual the school is particularly grateful to the massive contribution of the PTA and their work to get those 'extra' things the schools need.

Education and Standards Committee from Nicola Arkinstall, Chair.

The Education Committee have continued to focus on ensuring that every child receives the best possible quality of education.

Within our meetings we look at and discuss:

Head of School Reports, which give us a wealth of information about teaching and learning within the school

We analyse data to look at the progress of all the pupils

We look at attendance data and actions to support all pupils to have good attendance

We talk about the curriculum and all the fantastic opportunities that are given to ensure the pupils receive a rich, broad and balanced curriculum

- We monitor the School Improvement plan and review the progress of the actions to meet the targets
- We discuss the Inclusion Base and receive and update on its development
- We review expenditure of the Pupil Premium and Sports Premium funding
- We discuss staff and pupil mental health and wellbeing
- We also review and approve policies related to education and standards

We carry out regular school visits which focus on a particular aspect for each visit. The last school visit, which took place in March, focused on how we are supporting all the pupils with their mental health and wellbeing. The school visits give the Governors an opportunity to see everything that we discuss in the meetings taking place in the day to day lives of the pupils. We also have the opportunity to talk to all the staff and sometimes receive presentations from curriculum leaders to update us on their subject areas.



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Parent Representative Groups Update

Members of the recently created Parent Representative Body met again last week. The idea behind the creation of the parent body group is to have a group of parents from each year group that can play a pivotal role in school improvement. The parent group is separate to the PTA or any school governance and is intended to promote positive communication channels ultimately, improving outcomes for our children.

There is still a need for parent representatives from **4K** and **4M**. Please do get in touch if you are interested in this position.

The role of school governors

A common question asked of governors is 'what is your role?'. The purpose of the governing body is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance. Specifically, governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

Get in touch

The governors welcome feedback and questions from all parents/carers. Please contact either of the school offices or email enquiry@boldmere.bham.sch.uk marking the email for the attention of the FGB.

Boldmere P.T.A Update from Simon Clifford (Chair of PTA)

Boldmere PTA is an independent charity run by volunteers who are parents, carers or teachers of children at Boldmere Schools. Our focus is to raise funds to benefit all children at Boldmere Schools.

This year we've run a successful Fireworks Display, Christmas Fair, Elfridges Shops and Coin Wars as well as regular Ice Cream Sales and a Preloved Uniform Shop.

So far our volunteers have raised over £14k and donated over £12k to the school to fund Science Shows, a Grand Garden Design and a new Bark Kitchen but we're not done yet!

Boldmere PTA Big Summer Fundraiser is aiming to raise a £10k contribution to the new Junior Playground Equipment due to be installed this summer. The recent School Disco and PTA Summer Ball as well as upcoming Summer Fair on 8th July will all contribute towards this challenging £10k target.