Governors’ Letter to Parents: June 2022

Fortunately, Governors have been able to return to the school setting and spend more time with pupils, the teaching and leadership teams. It’s really good to get back into School, a major role for governors to see and hear first hand, school life. This enables us to carry out Governor monitoring visits. We are committed to meeting more parents too and hopefully we will see many of you soon. The popular Governors Tea Parties (for children, not parents!) have resumed with the first one on the 7th April and more recently on the 23rd May. There will be another one before the end of the academic year.

We have now had our second full governing board meeting and we remain focused on the Schools’ strategic priorities, it’s important to note that Governors do not influence the day-to-day operation of the school, this is for the headteacher and all members of the leadership and teaching teams but we look at the broader mechanisms that support it. The meeting’s agenda typically is focused on;

1. The School Development Plan this is a critical document for us, it outlines how we can continuously improve the school by way of objectives which we review and evaluate progress against the proposed outcomes.
2. Ofsted actions points – a continued focus for all; [OFSTED Report | Hanslope Primary School (hanslopeschool.co.uk)](https://hanslopeschool.co.uk/our-school/ofsted)
3. We also hear by way of report from each of the chairs from the committees, where we are able to gain that overview of all aspects of the working of the school this will cover budgeting and finance to pupil attainment and progress along with the teaching and learning in class.
4. Governor vacancies get a mention (watch this space in September)
5. The school build has been a prominent topic from when it will open, to school staffing structures and how we can continue to remain focused on our vision being, to *prepare our children to reach their full potential in a modern, evolving and diverse world* as we evolve to a bigger school.

We also look at data and results; recent data (Key Stage Leaders’ report to Curriculum Committee in March) shows that some children are still catching up on core subjects. During the covid lockdowns the School worked on feedback from parents to improve the home-working arrangements, and since the return to normal school, there’s been programmes of interventions, catch-up sessions and one-to-one work. Governors have also allocated more money into teaching resources and agreed additional staff in the structure to support children’s improvements. We’re confident these measures will produce results but need everyone, staff, children and families to keep working hard at reading, writing and mathematics.

Another topic for governors has been the 326 Club. The School help set up 326 club many years ago, and wants a ‘wrap-around’ provision for children (and to help parents) into the future – breakfast and after-school clubs, and holidays’ activities. 326 has now grown to an independent organisation, and we are pursuing discussions on annual rent, which supports the School’s budget. The School provides the Club with daily use of a hall, an office, playground and field space, food preparation, the annual rent goes towards the costs of having the Club on school premises - heating, gas, electricity, cleaning and caretaking, and as part of our income to the budget.. A year-on-year increase was agreed with 326 a few years, but covid lockdowns have limited the Club’s activities and scope to generate income. The income from the Club has enabled the School to increase the budget for teaching and learning resources, thus directly benefitting all children at Hanslope.

Finally, for us it’s been the year of communication, we are looking at all aspects of communication and soon a parent survey will be issued.  We encourage parents to provide feedback on how or what the school and the governing board can do better as part of continuous improvement.

Melissa Scott & Martin Small - governors