



Shine brightly together and reach for the stars!

November 2024



Governor update

The Resources committee of the Governing board had their termly meeting last week. Governors were very pleased to hear, amongst other things, about progress made on the school improvement priority focusing on improving attainment in writing, and were joined by Mrs. Reed to update on this particular area. Governors heard about the implementation of "Drawing Club" and more recently, "Curious Quests". Both interventions are very popular with children in school. Governors heard about topics of writing focus and how this links to continuous provision (the resources and learning opportunities accessible to children throughout the school day); as well as the focus on consistency throughout the year groups - both of which will be reviewed in practice during an open morning for governors in December.

July 2024



Message from Co-Chairs of Governors

This week's final Full Governing Board meeting of the school year was a great opportunity to reflect on the progress the school has made on all of the items on our School Improvement Plan.

For 2023/2024 the Behaviour and Attitudes towards learning across the school has been one item on our improvement plan - not because these items have been a particular problem in school; but because we felt that if we were truly outstanding in this area then it would have such a positive knock-on effect on so many other elements of school life. The school's POLO scheme (Play Outdoors, Learn Outdoors) is one particular initiative that demonstrates this improvement so well across many parts of school life.

POLO began this school year to give children more opportunities to play more deeply and more imaginatively outside of the classroom during lunchtimes. Children are supported by our Play Leaders to use the resources - many of which have kindly been donated to school by parents and members of the local community - to create their own games in different themed areas around the grounds.

During a recent Governor open afternoon we were able to go into school to see the POLO scheme first-hand. We saw the resources available for the children and were particularly impressed with the mud-kitchen that our fantastic caretaker Noel had built himself using some donated pallets.

We spent some time with children in the classroom and saw how engaged they were with their lessons on what was a warm and sticky afternoon. Then in our Governor meeting this week we were able to see the positive impact POLO has had on the staff in school when reviewing staff survey feedback.

As Governors we're thrilled to have been invited again to attend next week's Year 2 Leavers' Graduation Ceremony and Awards Presentation. One of us will be there to present the Governors



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Award for Progress to one of our children. It is so important for each and every child to try as hard as they can and to make the most improvement they can. Rewarding this effort and progress is just as important as rewarding high levels of achievement. We're really looking forward to it.

Finally, the end of a school year is always a good opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for the continued support you give to your children and to Mrs. Gibbs and her team. We hope you all have an enjoyable summer.

Katrina Woodward & Chris Lancaster, Co-Chairs of Governors



Governor Update

Please find below an update from one of our governors following a recent Governor's open afternoon in school.

It is a busy and important time in school at the moment as we progress towards the end of the final term. Myself and other Governors recently visited the school on 29th June during Sports Week to experience a typical school day. We spent time talking with staff and children in their classrooms and visiting the different areas within the school. When we have our Open Days, Governors focus on our School Improvement Plan with Mrs Gibbs and the staff of the school. This visit paid particular emphasis on "Play Outdoors, Learn Outdoors" (POLO); which is becoming a core identity within the school and attributable to important areas of the School Improvement Plan. It felt particularly rewarding to understand the benefits and impact POLO is having in these areas - since POLO has been introduced, there is a noticeable impact on the children's engagement in lessons following lunchtime, as well as fewer first aid and behavioural incidents at lunchtimes. Through talking with children and staff, it is clear that lunchtimes are a favourite part of the day!

Mrs Fletcher hosted Governors around the POLO areas. It was very useful to see the different areas available to children and understand how POLO provides structured play opportunities for the children to engage with, and the effective use of the school grounds in doing so. Mrs Fletcher helped us to understand how the different areas of POLO are introduced through school assemblies and what expectations are for what safe play looks like - as well as the role the lunchtime Play Team play in supporting the children.

What was clear was the children's engagement during lessons and how the children respond effectively to their teachers. It was clear the children grasp the structure of the school day and the topics at the time. The children across the school talked to us about SHINE time, their "sticky knowledge" boxes in classrooms and the themes of the week. Reception children guided Governors on a mini-beast tour in their outdoor area and showed the caterpillars (and chrysalis) they have in the classrooms and their excitement to see butterflies in the coming weeks.



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As we progress towards the end of the final term, the Governors are looking forward to upcoming events such as the Year 2 Production of "The Wizard of Oz" and the Year 2 Leaver's Graduation Ceremony and Awards Presentation - particularly awarding the 'Governor's Award for Progress' to one of our children. It is really important for us as a Governing board to recognise the effort that children make to progress in school, and we look forward to giving the worthy winner their award.

I would like to thank both Mrs Gibbs and her team for their efforts and support in this academic year, and the parents and carers of our children at our school.

Lee Mather - Parent Governor and Chair of the Teaching & Learning Committee

January 2024



Message from Co-Chair of Governors

It has been a busy start to what is always a busy term for the school. The same is the case for the Governors as we continue to induct our two new Parent Governors (Emma Hill and Lee Mather) into their roles. We're delighted to have both Emma and Lee on board.

We will also soon welcome back Fran Bonner to the Governing Board. Fran served as a Parent Governor up until November last year. During her four years with the Board she led the Resources Committee and took responsibility as the Designated Governor for Sports Premium funding, supporting Mrs Fletcher (our PE Teaching Lead) in ensuring the funding received by the school for sport and PE is used for maximum value. Fran will rejoin as our Local Authority appointed Governor. Where Emma and Lee will help provide fresh ideas and viewpoints, having Fran's experience and knowledge of the school on the Board will help keep continuity.

Fran's return to the Governing Board will coincide with one Governor sadly leaving us. As you may have read in the local newspaper, Rev. Steve Short will be moving to take up a new post in the Repton parish. On behalf of the Governors I would like to thank Steve for the wisdom and enthusiasm he has demonstrated during his two years as a Governor. Additionally, Steve deserves our heartfelt appreciation for the many assemblies, visits and contributions he (and his family) have made to MIS and to the children during their time living in Melbourne. Our loss is very much Repton's gain and we wish the Shorts every success and happiness as they move a few miles down the road.

The next big focus for the Governors as the Spring term progresses will be the annual budget-setting cycle. As Governors, it is our responsibility to oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent. Over the next couple of months, Mrs Gibbs and her team will present their proposals to Governors for how they believe the money and resources available to the school should be best used over the next 12 months.



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Chris Lancaster
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