



# Cliddesden Primary School Governor Newsletter

ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/2017 - ISSUE 2

Dear Parent/Carers,

It is hard to believe we've been through half the term already in 2017. Thank you for your continuous support. Please remember that governors operate an open door policy and we are always happy to discuss any matters regarding school life.

Parent Governors are often amongst you in the playground at the beginning and close of day and can be approached.

## OFSTED

### OFSTED Inspection November 2016

Every few years every school has an inspection from OFSTED, the government's organisation that oversees educational standards throughout England and Wales.

The last inspection took place in 2011, and over the years, the process of doing an inspection has changed. This year's inspection was a one-day visit by one inspector, and the school was given just 18 hours' notice that the inspector was coming.

As a great deal of information is available to them via online data which each school has to submit, they are usually well aware of how the pupils are doing before they arrive, and know what questions to ask of teachers, governors, parents and children.

Every school should be working at a standard that means a snap inspection would be welcomed, and each school has to have a School Improvement Plan (SIP) and a Self-Evaluation Form (SEF), which are monitored by the Governing Body and senior staff; these are regularly updated, so that at any time the areas of improvement needed, and where there is exceptional progress, are kept in mind, evaluated and targets set to improve.

The full report from the Inspector is on the school's website, and the Governors were pleased with the very good result, as were the staff. The progress of attainment and achievement is a team effort with you, the parents, working with your children at learning to read, write, spell and count, with teachers and teaching assistants as part of the overall team here at school.

Please read the OFSTED report and the School Improvement Plan on the school website, and thank you for being one of the most vital parts of the team involved in the education of your children, providing them with the security and peace to enable them to learn.

- **Stephen Maurant**  
*Chair of Governors*

## IN THIS ISSUE

### OFSTED

#### Committee Briefs

What's been happening in our school  
Upcoming events

### Curriculum & Standards Committee The Pleasures of Reading and Listening

When I became a Governor I was working full time, so had very little spare time in the day. Now in my second four-year term as a Governor, my circumstances have changed and I can visit the school on a regular basis.

As a link Governor for English and the Creative Curriculum, I've been listening to the children read most weeks for over a year now. I visit Willow Class on a Tuesday morning and have the pleasure of working with and encouraging year R and 1 children develop their reading skills.

Having pre-school children of my own, it has been enlightening to see how these skills are developed through phonetics, recognition and repetition. From the early days of describing a story using the pictures alone, to sounding out and blending the letters to make words, to then reading and recognising repeated words and even adding in the emotion of the story.

It has been a real pleasure and I would encourage any parent with half an hour an hour to spare to do the same.

- **Fiona Woolley**  
*(Chair of C & S Committee)*

## Finance & Personnel Committee

Funding for schools made the front page of newspapers once again during the autumn term, with particular attention on the viability of small schools. Nationally, there are growing financial pressures on schools and locally, Hampshire schools receive amongst the lowest amount of funding per pupil in the country.

It is against this backdrop that the governors oversee a stable financial position at Cliddesden Primary School. The school has in place one-year and three-year spending plans. Mr Davies and Mrs Spencer, the finance officer, manage the plans with skill, diligence and prudence. Each month, reports are produced detailing over 90 areas of income and expenditure for the school, which enables Mrs Spencer and the governors to quickly identify any material changes to our financial position.

During the past three years, we have also been able to deliver one-off tangible improvements for the school, with the quiet garden in front of the office, playground, hall, office and staff room all renovated from school funds. 2017 will see further improvements to the quiet garden area and the outside of Willow class.

Whilst the focus may be on managing costs, having a full intake of pupils in each year group improves the funds we receive as a school. We have received a lot of interest from parents whose children will be starting school in Year R in 2017. Our good Ofsted report will also help in attracting parents and their children to the school in future.

From a personnel perspective, we seek to attract and retain high quality teaching and support staff. There has been an increase in training in the last couple of years in developing our staff, with a particular focus

on succession planning, which is particularly important for a small school like ours.

The spring term will be a busy one for our committee as we monitor end-of-year spending carefully, complete our financial self-evaluation and then set our spending budget for 2017/18. We look forward to 2017 from a strong financial position, fully aware of the challenges that may lie ahead.

- **Nick Trinder**  
(Chair of F & P Committee)

## HOW TO CONTACT US

Should you wish for us to discuss any matters or want to contact a Governor directly, please do so at the school office through Mrs Hazel Barker who is the Clerk to Governors.

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOL

**Sports** - We're very pleased that the Children of our school continue to represent us in a number of different inter school sports competitions. Recently we had teams taking part in table tennis, indoor athletics and skipping competitions between Basingstoke Schools. Our Year 5/6 Tag Rugby team is doing well in the Norman League and we look forward to Cliddesden taking part in a Basingstoke schools netball competition and the Sparkling Rugby tournaments at Overton RCC in the summer term.

**Staff** – Congratulations to Mrs Sarah Green and her husband Tom on their new baby William Thomas Green, who was born on 15<sup>th</sup> January.

We welcome Miss Emily Romain who is teaching Chestnut Class until December 2017 when Mrs Green returns from her maternity leave.

As you will have read in Mr Davies' newsletter Miss Tara Copping will be leaving us at the end of the spring term. The governors would like to thank Miss Copping for the dedicated work she carried out as Inclusion Manager at Cliddesden and we wish her every success in her new role at Great Binfields.

**Other Activities** – So far this term there have been a number of enrichment events that support our broad curriculum at Cliddesden. Oak Class used role-play and knowledge to recreate a Victorian school day. This day helped them to understand more about Victorian life. Beech and Willow had a visit from a fire engine to coincide with two KS1 topics: People who help us and The Great Fire of London, and they also took part in drama workshops. Chestnut and Oak class broadened their scientific skills at knowledge at QMC and we had visitors for assembly from Hampshire Air Ambulance and the Life Right Foundation. Please have a look at the events page on the website for more details.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Parents Evening** – Members of the Governing Body will be available at Parents evenings on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

For information on our school governing body members and to read about all events and the latest news in school, view diary dates and class pages, find out about our curriculum, view your child's homework tasks, learn how to stay safe on the internet and much more please visit our school website [www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk](http://www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk)