

FERN HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Governor Briefing Spring term 2017

A warm welcome back to all our children and a happy new year to parents and carers. We are looking forward to another successful year for our school community.

Last term was very busy for the governors. Most of the detailed work is done by our committees and each one met during November.

The Curriculum and Achievement Committee reviewed the achievements of our children in the end of key stage assessments and the progress made by all since then. There was much to celebrate and even more ambitious targets have been set for next summer. Priorities for development were identified for reading and supporting disadvantaged groups and these form part of the school development plan priorities published on the website

(<http://www.fernhill.kingston.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Development+Plan+Priorities&pid=153>).

The Finance, Resources and Premises Committee monitored expenditure against budget and discussed strategies to tackle rising costs against funds we know are static for the next four years. One initiative, the voluntary contribution fund, has brought in £7,860 with donations from 126 of our 481 families. Thank you for your support. The fund gained charitable status just before Christmas so we are now able to claim gift aid on all contributions made. The fund's trustees will meet later this term to confirm priorities which are likely to be the renewal of the interactive whiteboards nearing the end of their useful life. Further donations would be very welcome from parents still to make a contribution as we continue to face a difficult and uncertain financial climate.

The Children, Families and Community Committee agreed its priority was to improve engagement with the parent and wider community. It will look at options following a review of our nursery provision in the light of the government's policy to promote 30 hour child care for eligible families.

The full Governing Body focussed on identifying events which may impact on the school. It noted that legislation, to require schools to become an academy had been dropped by the government. It was agreed however that it would be wise to continue to strengthen our links with other schools, identifying where we can collaborate to our mutual benefit.

The school benefits from having a strong governing body and we have been able to fill vacancies with people bringing valuable skills to our work.

At the end of May, the term of one of our parent governors comes to an end. We would like to encourage parents to put themselves forward for this vacancy and there will be an election later this academic year. Details of this will be circulated in due course.

To give you an idea of what being a governor involves, one of our Governing Body has sketched a pen portrait of the work he has done over the last few months. This is on our website where you can also find out more of the work of the governors (<http://www.fernhill.kingston.sch.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=46>). It is likely that one or two co-opted governor places may become available next school year. If you are interested in one of these, please contact Sue Dean, the clerk to the Governors, at sdean@fernhillprimary.co.uk with a note of the particular skills and knowledge that you can offer the Governing Body.

We are passionate about developing the whole child and instilling an enduring love of learning



Inspiration

Excellence

Empathy

Collaboration