



22nd July 2016

Chair of Governors Update July 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to give you all an update from the Southway Junior School Governing Body. We have had another very successful year.

New Curriculum and Assessment

This academic year has seen the introduction of a major overhaul of the curriculum. As you will have read in newsletters by the Headteacher, the new curriculum is far more challenging and has seen some dramatic changes but ones that I am delighted to say have been fully embraced by teachers and pupils alike.

When changes of this significance are made we undertake a journey of learning but I am delighted with the progress the school has made and we will continue to build on such solid foundations next year with experience and knowledge gained.

Investment in School Fabric.

We continue to invest in making improvements to the school. We now have a classroom dedicated to Design Technology and Art which allows the children to undertake projects and activities which would not be suitable for a conventional classroom.

Decoration throughout the school continues and is nearly completed.

Our next projects include commencing a roll out of new carpets throughout the school and the building of fixed storage facilities for the children's lunch boxes.

Staff Update

We say farewell to some teachers who are moving onto to new schools and of course welcome new ones into the Southway family.

A special mention to Angie Bower, who despite retiring two years ago has taught Dickens class this year alongside Liz Hollingdale. Her support and knowledge have been greatly appreciated Angie will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

We also say farewell to Lottie Stothard and Kim Harris, both in Year 5 and wish them good luck with their ongoing careers.

Mrs Claire Moleton has temporarily left Southway on maternity leave; we look forward to welcoming her back in due course.

We also welcome back from maternity leave our teachers, Jo Peiris, Andrea Bray and Candice Guy.

Lastly we are delighted to confirm the new appointments of Isabel Aidallbery and Laura Risby.

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Thanks to Staff

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to the staff of the school. Their dedication and hard work is showing true reward and I am sure you will agree the children are thriving as a result. The effort and determination they give day in day out is a tribute to their desire to provide the best possible education to all the pupils.

It is all too clear to see just what a positive effect our Headteacher Pete Newbold has had as the leader of the school. He never loses his focus in improving the school and in our regular dialogue we are always looking at the next project or opportunity. Without his vision and delivery I am certain we would not have had the huge impact to date.

Thanks to Governing Body

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to my Governing Body. Their support and dedication they give me and the school is always so evident and never ceases to amaze me. In our roles as governors we are always focussed on the best interests of the school and its pupils and the unpaid role is so often underestimated in the time, effort and resources it takes from the team.

HSA

I am sure you are all aware of the HSA and their loyal team of volunteers who fundraise and allow the school to purchase equipment and resources beyond the means of the school budget.

This is no more tangible than the recent additions of the start of the sensory garden and boardwalk which have made a huge difference to our outdoor learning environment.

Getting the children outdoors has a proven major influence on their learning and with our new facilities our pupils can benefit from for years to come.

The HSA remain committed to further developments in this area so watch this space.

Summer Holidays and Year 6 Children

On behalf of the Governing Body I wish staff, pupils, parents and carers a very relaxing summer holiday. To the Year 6 leavers we wish you the very best of luck in your new schools and remember that you are always welcome to visit the school; you will always be part of the Southway family.

Your Governing Body is committed to the school and its development. We are always open to new suggestions, thoughts and feedback. Contact can be made via the office where any of us will be happy to speak with you.

Yours sincerely

Peter Izard
Chair of Governors

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