

Governor Newsletter to Parents and Carers



Autumn Term 2019

Christmas is nearly upon us – carols are being sung, mince pies are being eaten and Santa and his reindeer are doing their limbering up exercises. Everyone at Crossgates has been incredibly busy this term, so read on for a snapshot of what the governor's have been up to. The full governing body held its AGM in October and then met again in November. Standard items at each meeting include receiving reports from the head teacher and reviewing policies, budget, and progress of the school development plan (SDP). The SDP priorities for this year which the governors are monitoring are:

1. Improve the standards of more able pupil's oracy to be in line with those in reading.
2. Ensure a broad and balanced curriculum that implements the four purposes and meets the needs of all learners.
3. Improve the provision for bilingualism and ensure the school achieves the bronze award level of Siartr Iaithe.
4. Improve the opportunities for pupils to participate in decision making at a whole school level.

During the termly support visit by our challenge advisor the school's indicative school categorisation was graded as Yellow (Good) with capacity to improve Grade B. Yellow is an effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve. As a school we are continuing to work towards and already hold many of the features of a 'green' school.

The **New Curriculum in Wales** will have more emphasis on equipping young people for life and will be statutory from September 2022. The 4 purposes of the new curriculum as referred to in the SDP priority 2, is to support our children and young people to be:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

It will be organised into six 'Areas of Learning and Experience' (AoLE) and will also include three cross-curricular responsibilities: literacy, numeracy and digital competence. An extra INSET day will take place each summer term for the next three years specifically to give teachers more time for their professional learning.

Powys Education Service have held two governor briefing sessions this term, in order to engage and consult on the priorities to be included in Council's post inspection action plan and share data on the current position of schools in Powys. Data is being used as a basis for the case for transformation in order to address one of the recommendations of the Estyn report. Apart from the finance issue, there is currently a large variation in budget share per pupil in primary schools, a predicted reduction of 4.4% in the number of primary pupils in Powys by 2025 and large numbers are currently leaving Powys for their post 16 education. The governors welcome any changes that benefit our pupils.

School Meals: We have been asked to bring to your attention the fact that the amount owed for school meals across the county as a whole is extremely high and is at a level which is unsustainable. We have been informed that Powys County Council may consider there to be no choice other than to start refusing to provide meals for primary-age children, if the relevant Parent Pay account is in deficit. Please make sure you are in credit before ordering meals.

Merry Christmas everyone! Claire Lewis, Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body