



Governor newsletter to parents and carers

Spring Term 2019

Flood Update: A huge thank you for your patience and understanding during the recent flooding. Year 1 and 2 have returned to their classrooms but there is still some outstanding work which will be funded from the Council's Property Plus scheme. Other costs incurred by the flood damage will be covered as part of an insurance claim.

KS2 Open Afternoon: Some of the governors, who are parents attended and thoroughly enjoyed the event. PC Viv Ainsworth gave an informative talk on digital safety that is something we all need to be aware of. For those of you who couldn't make it, information will be circulated in due course. There was also opportunity to visit the children in their class environment and talk to them about their work. Congratulations to Class 3 /4 for putting on a great show – a super end to their 'Gods and Mortals' topic!

Core Support Visit 2: In March the school was visited by Hayley Smith, Challenge Advisor. She conducted a learning walk to evaluate provision for differentiation in science in KS2 and a work scrutiny to evaluate standards of science in KS2. The report states that "the challenge for all pupils, including the more able is good. Nearly all pupils are predicted to achieve the expected level in science at the end of key stage 2 and around half are expected to achieve the higher level. These predicted targets are commensurate with work in their books." The report also assesses the school's progress against the key areas within the School Development Plan:

Priority 1: To improve the percentage of KS2 pupils reaching Level 5 in Science – Strong progress

Priority 2: To develop support for pupils with emotional and behaviour issues – Strong progress

Priority 3: Develop further awareness of ethical citizenship in the wider world – Satisfactory progress

Priority 4: Further develop middle leadership – Strong progress

Finance & Staffing Committee: In order to obtain a licenced budget over the next 3 years, the school is facing extremely difficult decisions. If there is no change in our allocated budget these decisions get more and more severe every year. Under the new 'fair funding formula' classes are financed on the basis of 1 teacher to 30 pupils, regardless of pupil age. This shifts the emphasis, more than ever, on obtaining a set number of pupils on a particular day in the autumn term. The impact of future cuts on our school has been raised with the LA and Kirsty Williams AM.

Breakfast Club: There is no change to funding for the current financial year, in that the LA will fund the statutory entitlement. The school has submitted a business case to the Council to ensure the existing opening time continues.

Standards and Curriculum: The committee have met to monitor standards of writing, spelling and grammar across the school by undertaking a book scrutiny and talking to learners. A governor from Llangorse School joined us to learn more about the monitoring work we do and for us to share our good practice.

Training: Some Governors have attended behaviour management training and a briefing session that focussed on the draft additional learning needs code that proposes improvements in the way young people with ALN are supported.

Contacts: If you would like to raise anything with the governing body please contact the school office. If you would like to email Claire Lewis, Chair of Governors directly, her email address is:

clairel@crossgates.powys.sch.uk

Have a very Happy Easter!