

Crossgates CP School Governor Newsletter to Parents and Carers Summer Term 2019



As we reach the end of the academic year, we would like to take the opportunity to provide you with an update of the recent work of the governing body.

Standards and Curriculum – School Development Plan

Governors met with the School and Eco Councils and some of our more vulnerable learners to monitor progress against the School Development plan. The children are always pleased to see visitors and were polite, engaged, enthusiastic and clearly liked their school. The Eco Council told us about issues they had discussed in their meetings, such as litter picking days, crisp packet recycling and replacing individual milk cartons and straws with large recyclable jugs and washable cups. The school Council were proud to talk about their charity work and playground pals. We are pleased to publish comments received within the recent report from our Challenge Advisor that verifies the marvellous work achieved:

Priority 1: To improve the percentage of KS2 pupils reaching Level 5 in Science – Very good progress. “The improved provision has impacted positively on outcomes for nearly all pupils in KS2. For example, all 23 Year 6 pupils achieved the expected level in 2019, with 56.5% achieving the higher level.”

Priority 2: To develop support for pupils with emotional and behaviour issues – Very good progress. “Initial data analysis indicates that nearly all pupils make good progress and achieve their potential, and a few make very good progress”.

Priority 3: Develop further awareness of ethical citizenship in the wider world – Strong progress. “The school ensures good opportunities for nearly all pupils to develop as ethical and informed citizens.”

Priority 4: Further develop middle leadership – Very good progress. “The school has made very good progress in meeting nearly all of the 2018/2019 SDP priorities.”

Year 5/6 Cardiff Trip Report by Adam Morton (Community Governor)

It was with a mounting sense of trepidation and fear that I agreed to accompany Year 5/6 on their trip to Cardiff, with the daunting task of giving Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Watkins, Miss. Bufton, Mrs. Dunt and Nathan Meredith a helping hand to look after the 39 children that were going.

The excited babble that emanates from that quantity of children, in the confined space of a coach, reached decibels that could put a Six Nations crowd to shame. The cool, calm manner in which the staff were able to still talk amongst themselves, made me wonder if I was going to find myself quickly out of my depth. But without incident we arrived in Cardiff and made our way to Urdd Gobaith Cymru, our accommodation for the night. The Urdd was the perfect place to accommodate the children, with fantastic staff, good food, clean simple rooms and facilities and great security. After a film and some ten-pin bowling, I incorrectly assumed, bedtime would be a simple matter of putting 39 tired children to bed. Having two young children of my own, I should have known better. Fortunately, the operation was in safe hands and I watched on as staff herded cats for an hour or two until everyone was safely in their rooms and settled.

Wednesday was a fantastic day, and the children were treated to a guided tour of both The Senedd and Cardiff Castle before being shown behind the scenes at The Principality Stadium. The articulate and intelligent questions asked by the children, and their fantastic behaviour was a testament to both Crossgates School and the staff. It was a real pleasure to get an insight into the great work the staff at Crossgates do, and to get a taste of the relentless and unwavering attention our children require and receive from these

staff, when we entrust them into their care. During a school trip like this, the staff cannot switch off for one moment. Having tried to do it for two days, even in a lesser role such as mine, was exhausting.

With funding for schools in Wales being slashed all the time, our teachers and support staff are being asked to provide better provision for our children with less and less financial support. It is not until you actually spend a day in their shoes that you can appreciate the responsibility and role they play in our children's lives, and for that I would like to say a personal thankyou to them all.

Changes to the Governing Body – A warm welcome to our new parent governors:

Michelle Hendy: I have a passionate and highly driven nature. I have two children in Crossgates (Sophia Year 3 and Evlyn in Reception) and would love the opportunity to help serve the school and the other pupils. I feel that it is important to have a strong school community spirit where parents and teachers can work seamlessly to create a thriving and productive learning environment for each and every child. I believe that every child deserves the best possible start and support to develop their mental, emotional and social skills which will help shape their personal identities, encouraging them to grow into confident, caring, successful members of society.

Roger Davies: I was born in Llandrindod and grew up at Hoddell Farm in Kinnerton. At the age of 12, we moved across the border to Hereford. I trained to be a mechanic but now work for a company who supplies luxury bathrooms in Hereford. It has been my dream to return to Wales and we have found a small holding on the outskirts of Abbey-cwm-hir. My mother was born and raised in Abbey-cwm-hir, so I really feel like I've come home. As the father of 6 children, the eldest being 29 down to the youngest William, I have been with each one, as they have journeyed through their schooling. 3 of my children followed the same path, a village school then the local senior school in Herefordshire. My eldest daughter spent some of her teen years in the education system in the United States and my step daughter attended private school, so I have been privileged to have seen a varying number of schools and the education they provide. We were so happy to have found Crossgates CP School for William. William is very happy at the school, and as a parent, it is a comfort to see him so happy and enthusiastic about his school. However, it would seem from recent events that funding to the school is being cut. These are challenging times for Crossgates CP School and although I am a new parent to the school, I want to be able to help the school, staff and its pupils flourish.

Summary of other topics discussed in GB meetings

Three governors fed back on the June governor briefing session led by the Council. This included further updates on the implementation of the new ALN Act and an informative report from Radnor Valley School who are a pioneer school for Science and Technology Area of Learning in the new curriculum.

Teachers from the Welshpool cluster visited KS2 to observe genius hour good practice and conveyed their thanks, having been impressed with what they viewed. Similarly, a member of our staff visited a school in Welshpool to look at their approach to outdoor learning. The effective use of our school grounds is something we are keen to support and explore. In the autumn we plan to hold a work day to 'spruce' up our grounds. This will be advertised nearer the time and we hope you will join us. We have also discussed whether a change in policy was required in relation to pupil behaviour management. This matter was raised following an incident in school. Advice was sought from the Council and governors agreed that the current policy was appropriate.

Finally, and most importantly we would like to thank all those who support the school in whatever capacity. We look forward to seeing you all, and some new faces, in September.