

Berkeley Primary School

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September 2022 - Governors' Newsletter

Welcome Back from the Governors

Welcome to our first governors' newsletter of the 2022/23 academic year, the purpose of which is to keep parents and guardians informed of the activities undertaken by the school governing board. Please visit our governor webpages to find out more about who we are. This includes a 'meet the governors' page as well as past issues of this newsletter. www.berkeleyprimary.co.uk/meet-the-governors/

We hope you have all had a terrific summer holiday. As we quickly get back into our roles in school, after the summer break, it's fantastic to see the children settling in so well. If you haven't had chance already, please take a look at the transition pages on the website to meet the adults in each year.

www.berkeleyprimary.co.uk/transition-for-september-2022/ The website hosts up to date information for parents and guardians about what is happening in classes and around school.

Achievements of academic year 2021-2022

The governing board were delighted with the Key Stage 2 (end of Year 6) SATs results, the first set of results since 2019. The school achieved higher than both the local and national average percentage pass rate across all subjects; reading, writing, grammar, maths, science, and combined reading, writing and maths. This is down to the continued hard work of all our staff and pupils.

Actions for academic year 2022-2023

At the beginning of each new academic year we have a School Improvement Committee (SIC) meeting, where we analyse the progress data, reflect on previous years actions and pull together the actions for the next year which then form the School Development Plan. A few examples of actions are;

- Reading was a priority on last year's action plan. Following the embedding of 'Book Club', we have seen the children across the school very engaged with reading, which is reflected in the results. A learning walk last term highlighted further areas for improvement, which are included in this year's action plan. Governors have allocated further funding for reading corners in each classroom, which is intended to promote a love for reading, the impact of which will be monitored throughout the year. It is beneficial for children to see adults reading for pleasure, which will be happening around school.
- The results of the Key Stage 1 phonics tests were down compared to previous years, which is a national picture, but following an audit by the English Hub programme we were given lots of new ideas for ways forward so we were delighted to be accepted on to their development programme for the next two years.
- Towards the end of last term, the children were able to get back putting on a number of performances, including the year 6 play which was a tremendous success! While the children all did a wonderful job it was evident that the lack of these events over the last two years has led to a general lack of confidence.

We have joined Voice 21 to empower children to use their voices in school and in life. Hopefully there will be more opportunities for adults to see their children in action this year.

Spotlight on Link Governors

Each governor takes on responsibilities for specific areas within school, such as Safeguarding, Pupil Premium, SEND. The purpose of a Link Governor is to ensure that there is specific oversight of a particular area and to feed back to rest of the board, deepening the board's knowledge and understanding. This involves visiting the school and meeting with staff which leads to understand how the strategic objectives are being embedded, how money is being spent and any issues affecting delivery. These responsibilities are reassessed at the first Full Governor's Meeting every year to ensure we're covering all relevant areas and any focuses we may have in the School Development Plan for that year. In each newsletter we will focus on a Link Governor and their area of special responsibility.

Jocelyn Cole has taken over as SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Link Governor this term, a role which was previously carried out by Sarah Tierney. Sarah was an accomplished SEND Co-ordinator earlier in her career so has been carefully monitoring progress and assisting to achieve our aims throughout the last two years. She has left some big shoes to fill, but Jocelyn has already met with Teresa Suddaby, the school SENDCo to discuss where we are currently at, setting our objectives for the next year and assessing the impact of changes we have implemented. A big change is the addition of Assistant SENDCo, Jenna King, who will be helping to support children as necessary throughout the school. Over the last academic year, we reviewed the progress tracking of SEND children and developed a new system to make clear the progress they have made. This year we will be developing this further to incorporate the tracking of actions for individual children, therefore ensuring support is in place and in a timely manner.

A main objective this year is to improve communication and involvement with parents and guardians, this will include parent and pupil voice surveys, SENDCos and Governors being available at parents' evenings and dedicated workshops for parents of SEND children.

Environmental Focus

The school were so pleased with the success of the school uniform recycle event, the amount of donations were incredible and it was a pleasure to see so many items find a new home. We've always been an environmentally conscious school, we have our Eco-Monitors around school ensuring we're not wasting water or electricity and recycling wherever possible. We are very pleased to have joined the North Lincolnshire Community Energy Co-Op, as part of which we will be having solar panels installed on both main buildings in school.

As we are all concerned with the current cost of living crisis please check your eligibility for free school meals www.northlincs.gov.uk/schools-libraries-and-learning/school-food-and-free-school-meals/

Governor Visibility in School

The Governors' visibility for staff and pupils around school remains a priority so we will be continuing to have termly lunches with the children, attending student council meeting and assisting on educational visits. We will be improving visibility for parents by attending parents' evenings and workshops, but if you see any of us around school please don't hesitate to come have a chat.

Home-School Agreement Reminder

Finally, we just wanted to remind parents of our Home-School Agreement, which staff, children and parents sign at the first parents evening of the year. Within this we agree, "I will get in touch if there are any problems that may affect my child's work or behaviour and not put anything negative on social media about the school or its staff". We hope to promote an environment in which you feel comfortable to discuss issues with the class teacher or a member of the Leadership Team. If however, you are still unhappy please use the official channels to escalate a complaint, the procedure can be found on the website if required.