

Governors' Newsletter - Summer 2016

Here we are at the end of another school year and the Year 6 children are leaving us to go on to secondary school. The governors would like to wish them every success in their next stage of education.

Unfortunately the weather so far this summer hasn't been great, but let's hope it's saving itself for the summer holidays so you can enjoy your holidays and outings. We will be back with another Newsletter in the Autumn term and in the meantime, we hope you have a good summer break.

We would like to welcome our new parent governor, Julie Garret, who is a parent at Bedenham school.

Safeguarding

As you might expect, Safeguarding has a very high priority in schools and the DfE regularly updates its advice to schools. It is one of the first areas that OFSTED will look at when they come to visit a school and a school could be graded as inadequate if its safeguarding procedures are not effective.

Because this is such an important area, the Governing Body has a governor with responsibility for safeguarding. This is Lindsay Dovell, who works alongside the Heads of School to ensure the safeguarding requirements are fully met. Her role is to champion Safeguarding and Child Protection (CP) issues; liaise with the Heads of School on a regular basis to monitor the effectiveness of all policies and procedures; encourage all governors to be aware of their Safeguarding responsibilities; and ensure both schools comply with their duty to complete the annual audit required by the Local Authority.

Each school has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), these are the Heads of School, and their role is to make sure all staff receive in-house CP training and keep up to date with the required training; they provide support, advice and expertise to all school staff who raise child welfare concerns, and liaise with the Executive Head Teacher on CP issues; they also make the decision to discuss with or refer to Children's Social Care or Police.

The Executive Head Teacher is ultimately responsible for all Safeguarding policies, procedures and issues and for establishing safe environments in which children can learn and develop. She also ensures that the DSLs and all staff are able to fulfil their Safeguarding and CP duties.

Everyone, staff, volunteers and governors are expected to support the Safeguarding activities of both schools, promote the welfare of pupils and encourage a culture of sharing concerns.

What have the governors done over the Summer Term?

We have been involved in various things, for example: as Alverstoke Infants Governing Board was rated as outstanding by OFSTED, one of the Governors visited a Governor meeting there. We're pleased to report that we do very similar things to them.

Two governors have visited both schools and talked to children about a variety of topics for example, what did they think about behaviour at lunch time and in the playground, and whether they felt safe in school. One governor visited Bedenham Early Years to see what happens in a Phonics lesson; Year 6 books were reviewed to see progress and also some SEN case studies were looked at to view progress of these children.

One of our governors attended the Sports Day of both schools and talked to some of the parents to gain their views on the schools and the Safeguarding Governor produced a report detailing all the actions which have taken place this year.

Did you know???

The total number of pupils in both schools is **526** - Bedenham has 278 with 150 boys and 128 girls, and next year the numbers on roll will exceed 300. Holbrook has 248 children with 119 boys and 129 girls.

Attendance figures are 96% for Bedenham and 94.2% for Holbrook. The National average is 96%, so it would be brilliant if we could exceed this in both schools next year, but we need parents help to achieve this.