

WE ARE 'REACHING HIGH'

Governors' News

The governors' newsletter of Fairlands Primary School and Nursery

www.fairlands.herts.sch.uk

July 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for taking time to read this edition of the governors' newsletter for the 2013/14 academic year. This time of year is a time for reflection, celebration and change; where the school community starts preparing for the next instalment of its academic life.

It is our aim, along with the staff, to make the school the very best that it can be and give the children their best possible start in life. We can only do this with the support of the whole school community, which includes parents and carers and I hope that with your help we will continue to have happy, healthy children in our school who are ready to learn.

I would like to thank all who contribute to the development of Fairlands Primary School and help to make chairing the governors such an enjoyable, as well as challenging, experience. These include my fellow governors, teaching and support staff, all those who help the school in a voluntary capacity and the parents and pupils who make up the Fairlands Community.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very enjoyable summer break.

Keith Smith
Chair of Governors

YEAR 6'S

After eight years at the school and nursery, it's time to say goodbye and good luck to the Year 6 pupils as they move on to their senior schools and start a new adventure and their next stage of learning. At Fairlands, the aim at this time of year is to celebrate their achievements and show them how the school has prepared them for the next stage of their academic and social development. The work that they put in throughout their time at Fairlands, culminating in SATS week, really shows the children's commitment to their education. The excellent results set of results achieved have shown that they have ALL worked hard.

Let's not forget the Year 6 teachers and support staff who put in the extra work to lead them down the path of excellence. Miss Bridge, Mr Dickinson and Miss Dhillon, Mrs Lyme, Mrs Smith and Miss Whitehair... thank you!

You've once again shown the children how to excel and in doing so have excelled yourselves.....WELL DONE ALL !!!!

THE SCHOOL IS GROWING! AGAIN!

This year we welcomed another set of children into our ever expanding school. Once again our Nursery is oversubscribed with more local parents choosing Fairlands as the place to start their child's educational journey.

We believe Fairlands provides one of the finest starts, with unrivalled resources and a level of excellence in the teaching and support staff which is both the envy and admiration of other schools not only in Stevenage but throughout Hertfordshire and the surrounding counties.

Each year, the Nursery and Early Years building is visited by lots of other schools who want to see for themselves what it is that Mrs Yendell and the superb team of staff do, that truly makes a difference.

From September, Miss Thompson will be part of the headship team. This appointment will provide even more focused leadership in KS1 and we are excited about future developments there, including further development of outside learning opportunities.

SCHOOL BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

During the summer holidays the school will start the process of replacing the windows in both of the buildings. This is a huge expense for both the school and the local authority but the benefits of a more heat efficient and secure building will be worth the upheaval and cost.

Parents recently voted via our website and decided that the Fairlands' Faces fund should be spent on updating the lighting and audio for the stage. I am pleased to tell you that a full refurbishment of the stage is being done over the summer and will be ready for the new academic year!

Also, sometime in the new academic year, we will be renewing and updating the toilet facilities in Reception. These are very much needed and long overdue so hopefully work will have been completed before we return in September.

The main entrance pathway is also being expanded to provide Year 2-6 parents and children with more space when dropping of and collecting children at the start and end of the school day. This has been agreed in response to issues raised at Parent Forum - we are listening!

WHAT GOVERNORS DO The Role of the School's Governing Body

In simple terms, the governors have a general responsibility for the management of the school. The headteacher (who is also a governor) makes the day-to-day decisions about the running of the school. Governors are responsible for setting the budget and for overseeing the curriculum. We also deal with formal complaints, marketing, personnel, buildings, charging, policy setting, health and safety, safeguarding and some disciplinary matters. The governors do this on a voluntary basis.

As a governing body, we meet regularly to discuss and question the various elements that go towards the financial and educational needs of the school community. Sometimes, this involves making visits to the school during the school day. This helps us better understand what it is that the school needs in order to

deliver the inclusive educational ethos which is important to the community around the school.

There are three committees which each meet twice every term. The Resources Committee is where we discuss all things financial and practical, including health and safety issues. The Teaching and Learning committee discusses all things relating to the school's curriculum. Finally, the newly formed Policies committee meets to discuss and update the policies and procedures.

If you are interested in becoming involved as a school governor or would like to know more about helping out at the school in other ways then please contact the school office and they will put you in touch with the chair of governors.

VALUES EDUCATION

January saw the start of values education at Fairlands. This develops the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education of all at Fairlands. The approach of looking at a different value each month has already proved successful around the school, with both staff and children demonstrating awareness and eagerly displaying the values in a positive light. This year the values have included:

Politeness, Kindness, Friendship, Resilience, Pride and Respect.

Governors meet with the school council and talk to children during school visits, values education will be a focus in many of these conversations next year. We are interested in hearing how the children perceive this approach and how they feel it is supporting them in their daily life. We are aware that the monthly value information is included in homework flyers and class blogs and are keen to discover how these values are being portrayed at home.

If you have any suggestions or queries you would like to raise with governors, please use the suggestion box, placed by the school office.