

Name:

Class:



Governor Newsletter

www.compton-cofe-primary.org

March 2018 Ed.23



Dear Everyone,

Well another busy term has passed at our school. Since our last newsletter, the structure of our governing body has been changed from the previous model of two committees (Pastoral and Curriculum/ Finance and Premises) meeting termly and then feeding information into the termly, Full Governors' meeting. We now meet twice a term as the full governing body, in order that we all have an opportunity to be involved with all aspects of the issues which affect our school. To date, I think we are finding that this arrangement is working well for us all.

As you are probably aware, managing our extremely limited school budget has taken up a lot of our meeting time in the past few years. However, the very difficult decisions that were made last year, along with the details of the new National Funding Formula for schools which have recently been shared with us, are beginning to make an impact. In a difficult economic climate we are now in a stronger and more stable position. We will soon be able to begin prioritising the areas where spending would make the best impact for our children, which, following on from so many lean years, we are very much looking forward to.

The Headteacher's Report to governors is shared at each meeting, and we are always pleased to be updated regularly on the daily life of the school (including attendance figures and safeguarding information), its staff and the achievements of the pupils. As part of our role we reflect upon and challenge any data regarding our standards, and we were pleased to note that we continue to perform well compared to local and national statistics.

As governors, we try to visit the school as often as we can to meet the children and members of staff that our decisions impact upon, and in addition, I meet with Mr Oakshott on a weekly basis. As many of us have working commitments, I'm sure you will appreciate that this is not always easy! This term, however, we decided to organise our visits in a new way. We had a 'Learning Walk', where each of us was given a focus for our visit, linked to our area of school responsibility. Many of us came to school to have lunch with the children and spend time in their classrooms, on this same day, which as you will see from the comments below, we thoroughly enjoyed, and have arranged to replicate later next term.

So, our newsletter, again, attempts to provide a snapshot of the activity and involvement that we have had with our school this year, and I hope that it has given you an idea about our role within the school. As ever, we would like to encourage you all to visit our school website to keep fully updated on everything that is happening in school and for additional information about the Governing Body (www.compton-cofe-primary.org).

Catherine Smith
Chair of Governors

Visit to lunchtime chess club:

It was fantastic to see so many children, both infant and junior, enjoying playing each other. The noise levels were well controlled and even when the children had finished their game they played another game or watched their peers. There were some curious moves taking place and so perhaps not all the children fully understood the rules of the game, but nevertheless it was a pleasure watching them all taking part!

Matt Sheather
(Responsibility: KS2)

Discussion with Assessment Co-ordinator:

As the children headed to assembly, Jon Halton and I met with Jody Barnes, to hear how the children's attainment and progress in now being assessed and tracked. We saw demonstrations of the new tracking system and how it addresses some of the areas raised in our last Ofsted visit, following the removal of the previous 'levels' system.

Cath Smith
(Responsibility: Strategic Direction)

Visit to yr 5 English class:

Amazingly productive and mature atmosphere. I would be extremely happy with that level of focus and commitment in one of my classes at DHSG! I had an opportunity to ask a number of children about their prior learning and they were all able to explain to me in detail and with genuine enthusiasm about the work they had done in both English and history around how the Jews were treated in Hitler's Germany. The level of writing I saw was really impressive. I could have easily stayed in that class all afternoon!

Juliet Morgan
(Responsibility: Teaching & Learning)

Visit to Foundation:

Overall, I was very impressed by the behaviour of the children and their ability to concentrate and participate in the lessons. It was wonderful to see our youngest children at Compton so happy and eager to learn.

Di Werker
(Responsibility: Early Years)

How to contact your Governors.....

Parents are welcome to contact a governor directly. If you wish to write to the governing body, this can be done by handing a letter in at the school office addressed to the Chair of Governors, or by e-mail via :

compton.ce.primary.school@plymouth.gov.uk

While we welcome letters and value your comments, initial complaints and issues relating to the day to day running of the school, should in the first instance be discussed with your child's teacher or referred to the head teacher, Mr Oakshott.

Our very best wishes for an enjoyable Easter break,
The Governing Body