



Governors' Newsletter

Kings Cliffe Endowed School Governing Body Newsletter

ISSUE 4 March 2015

Hello and Welcome

This is the fourth edition of our newsletter. I hope that the information these newsletters provide, together with the huge wealth of resources on our website, is ensuring we are moving towards our aim this year of improving the communication between the Governing Body and the parents and carers of our school. We welcome your feedback of course, and are always looking for ways to improve what we do.



The Governors are immensely proud of the manner in which the Headteacher, staff and children of our school welcomed our Ofsted Inspector. Parents too, provided some fantastic

feedback to the Inspector and we are enormously grateful to those of you who took the time and effort to do this.

We now await the final report, which unfortunately is not released until 15 working days after the Inspection date.

Transition to Two Tier and New Build



Since our last Governor Update in January we have relatively little further information to report to parents. However there have been a few developments of note:

Resourcing NCC have reconfirmed their commitment and available financial budget for converting the existing Horsa Building IT Suite into a classroom, providing an alternative mobile IT solution to compensate for the loss of our static PC's and to providing an alternative means to house the library resources.

New School The planning process for the New Build is proceeding. I think we are all very excited about how the new school is taking shape, and as new documents and plans become publicly available we will put these on our website.

Community Communication The Governors, the Kings Cliffe School Foundation, the Kings Cliffe

Parish Council and some community members have formed a small communications group to ensure that information regarding transition and the new build is publicised more widely. Please keep a look out for our first update in the Village Gazette published this month.

Library provision over the Transition Period The Headteacher and Governors invested considerable time at the beginning of this year trying to source an appropriate double decker bus which could be converted into a library. However, the cost has proved prohibitive and this is not a viable option. Access to good library books is essential for all children, so we are now looking at the following ideas: *cont'd on page 2*

Extended school partnerships

Willow Tree Playgroup

Over the last year, the Governing Body and Headteacher have been working with the committee of Willow Tree Playgroup to strengthen links. As a result of this we are pleased to announce that a formal partnership has been created which paves the way for closer working and sharing of best practice with the ultimate aim of creating even smoother pre-school to school transitions for our children.

Before and After School care

The Governing Body can also announce that as of September 2015 the school's before and after school care provision will be managed by a new organization; Kaleidoscope In Action (KIA) Child Care. The school will be working closely with KIA, developing closer links between these provisions, and ensuring that any change is managed as a gradual and consensual process.

Parents & Friends

The PFA continues to work incredibly hard raising funds for the school. Over the next few years their work will be a particularly important, to help provide resources for our growing school. With our pupil roll growing so fast, running events becomes increasingly challenging, and we hope that as more parents and families join our school community you will choose to assist the PFA.



Transition cont'd

- 1) Developing reading corners in classrooms with additional book stands, beanbags and cushions;
- 2) Housing the main library stock on trolleys so that our volunteer librarians can bring the books

- 3) Investing in tablets and e-book software so that we can deliver an even wider range of books to our children and provide even better research facilities than we have now.

The Bus that wasn't!



We are sure there will be disappointment across our school community that a library bus is not a feasible option.

But, both the Governing Body and Headteacher believe it is vital to clearly communicate the changing situation to our parents and children.

Although decisions have been made based on a common sense

approach to available budgets and the need to balance what happens in Kings Cliffe with the needs of the cluster, this does not mean we will compromise standards.

The solutions we implement over the coming academic year may have to be creative, but they will also continue to deliver an excellent reading programme.

As Governors, we are committed to providing our Headteacher and staff with the support they require.

However we also wish to appeal to parents and the wider community to help support the school through what will be a challenging transition period where we will have to work exceptionally hard to maintain the continuous improvement in our already high standards.

Governing Body



With the ongoing pressure of the transition and new build process the Governing Body has undertaken another reconstitution to enable us to recruit further co-opted governors.

As our website details, co-opted governors are recruited on a skills basis to address any knowledge gaps in the Governing Body as a whole.

Following this, the Governing Body is delighted to welcome a new Governor, Suzie Julien, to our number.

Suzie brings many years of valuable experience from the education sector and will be a valuable addition at this busy point in our school's development.

Uniforms

Our Headteacher has given considerable thought to uniform at the school, motivated by a desire to achieve a smart and consistent appearance across the school that helps to foster in our children a sense of pride in, and identity to, their school. Mrs. Bowyer has discussed uniform with the children and they have been enthusiastic supporters of a smarter uniform and particularly a tie. The upcoming **Oundle Festival** on April 16th at which our Yr 3 and 4 children are representing the school was identified as a perfect opportunity to trial and showcase



Representative image only

the new school tie that we plan to introduce in September 2015.

While we are aware that some parents believe that a more consultative approach should have been taken for this initial trial of a tie and long sleeved shirt, there is no statutory requirement to consult parents when changing school uniform. [DfE guidance](#) recommends that parents' views should only be considered when making "significant changes" to the school uniform policy and for this particular trial of uniform the Governing Body does not consider it to be a significant change.

Nevertheless, Mrs. Bowyer, with our support, is keen to consult with parents on changes to uniform that are being considered for the future and will be sending a letter to parents during the summer term.



SMSC & British Values

British Values as a curriculum topic is something you may have come across in the news. SMSC (Social, Moral, Cultural and Spiritual) Education is perhaps something less familiar, although it has been part of the curriculum for many years.

These curriculum areas focus on values and identity, and provide a solid foundation for children's future education.

While these are certainly not new areas of the curriculum, extensive work has gone into developing and mapping how we deliver these

essential elements since Mrs. Bowyer joined our school in September 2013. As Governors we want to both promote knowledge of these curriculum areas, and celebrate the work that has taken place.

We hope therefore that by following these links to our extremely informative website, [SMSC](#) and [British Values](#) we can move somewhat towards achieving these aims, and that parents will feel more informed about how these aspects of the curriculum fit into your children's learning, now and in the future.

Celebrating our Core Values

As a school we pride ourselves on the values our children learn and use. As Governors we have been immensely impressed by the work of our Headteacher and staff in developing the core underpinnings of the education we offer. The Values Education Ethos, introduced by Mrs. Bowyer, now permeates much of the work the children do. More can be found out about this on our website here: [Values Education](#).



We wish you a happy and relaxing Easter break. Sarah Dresner, Chair of Governors KCES Governing Body



How our children are learning

Another area of focus for the school has been in developing our children as more independent learners. As part of this, TASC (Thinking Actively in a Social Context) has been introduced across all year groups. More information can be found at [KingsCliffeSchool/TASC](#). You may also have already had the opportunity, through your child's year group, to come in for a TASC afternoon, which gives the

children the opportunity to display and explain their work to parents and carers.

Our most recent school TASC afternoon was held on 27th March 2015 where all year groups opened up their classrooms to parents and family members in order to 'show off' their learning for the term.

Another whole school TASC afternoon will be held at the end of the summer term.