Welcome to the fourth issue of the Stour Federation Governors’ Newsletter. The newsletters are intended to share and communicate the work of the Governing Body with parents and carers. Governors also welcome your feedback, views and opinions. For a full list of Governors please check out the school websites. You can leave a message for any of us via the school offices.

Hello from Jo
Jo Barker, Chair of Governors

I am delighted to announce that we have three new parent governors: Lucy Kirkman, Amy Pearson and Emma Shrimpton. All have children at Shipston Primary School. Together they bring a diverse and rich range of skills, knowledge and experience to the governing body.

Resources Committee

At this time of year the focus is on capital projects and maintenance works to be carried out between now and the start of the new school year in September.

At Acorns, the boiler replacement and heating upgrade works took place over the Easter holidays on schedule and within budget. We have just heard that our DFE bid for replacing the nursery building has been granted. The Local Authority has already committed £260,000 towards the nursery although some of this money has already been spent on patching up and making safe the old building. If all goes to plan, the work should start next Easter with all up and running by September 2019. A good result after a very frustrating year.

At Shipston we are planning to upgrade the washroom facilities starting this year with year 6 and year 2. As the DFE bid was unsuccessful this will be funded from our own budget, hence the need to phase the work for the replacement of all the facilities, hopefully over the next three years. The new cycle/running track has been installed and replacement windows and essential roof repairs are scheduled to take place this summer.

In February we received a presentation from a company offering to replace all our existing lighting with LED lights. It highlighted the cost of running the existing lighting and the ongoing replacement and maintenance involved. Governors have agreed to proceed with this work to not only save money but to improve the lighting quality throughout the school.

Resources will be looking at budget figures at our next meeting, it is hoped that the new funding formula will benefit rural schools such as ours.

Jackie Brown, Chair of Resources Committee
Resources Committee Jackie Brown (Chair), Nick Jennings (Vice Chair), Mike Dumelow, Jo Barker, Jeanette Harris, Ann Holland, Glyn Roberts
Children and Curriculum Committee

Learning Walks
During the Spring term learning walks took place at Shipston and Acorns. Learning walks allow governors to look at how policy and curriculum are being applied; giving governors a better understanding and awareness of the rich variety and quality of work that is taking place in the classroom as well as to challenge and ask questions. At Acorns the focus for the Spring term walk was the ‘No Outsiders’ scheme. At Shipston the focus was on handwriting.

At Acorns governors reported how much they had learned about the Equality Act from the children and it was evident that the Assemblies are a significant part of the ‘No Outsiders’ scheme. Pupils had enjoyed reading the books and they had good knowledge. At Shipston governors looked at handwriting using the policy to see how it was being applied. They saw some lovely examples with each class having an individual approach. Following learning walks notes are written up and shared with teachers and governors.

The summer term learning walks at both schools will focus on Book Talk and Accelerated Reader. The opportunity to spend time in the classrooms with teachers and children is always enjoyed and valued by governors.

Jo Rice, Chair of C&C Committee
C&C Committee: Jo Rice (Chair), Thomas Wrigley (Vice Chair), Elaine Hobday, Nicky Hazleton, Ian Fairbourn, Rachel Sellars, Hannah Young, Alice Rose, Amy Bayliss

STOUR FEDERATION GOVERNORS

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