



November 2022

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News from Your Governors



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The governing body is thrilled to celebrate, along with the whole school community, some wonderful success over the past year. These include:

- ★ Our record breaking year 6 SATS results
- ★ The fabulous redevelopment of our playground
- ★ The resumption of normal school activities including our residential and day trip programme
- ★ The extremely successful implementation of our new behaviour policy, with governors noticing at each monitoring visit a real sense of purposeful behaviour for learning.


A huge 'well done' to all the children, and of course to the hard working staff team for their part in all of these.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Explaining the governors' role



In addition to celebrating our successes, the governors are closely involved in the creation of the School Development Plan; In this plan School Leaders identify development priorities for the year and years to come. As well as reflecting their professional judgement, these priorities also draw on:

-  What our parents tell us we need to do better. This year this includes ongoing work to continue improving communication with parents including coffee mornings and parent meetings with the Senior leadership Team, termly meetings with our class reps and our annual parent survey
- How our children perform in national statutory assessments (SATS) and internal pupil progress monitoring - for example, lower scores than usual in our Year 2 SATS and the Senior Leadership have identified improving writing as a major area of focus for 2022-23.
- Changing Ofsted and DFE priorities: An example is the recent focus on ensuring that the whole school's curriculum is well-sequenced and demonstrates logical progression. Last year several governors' visits focussed on looking at how staff had revised the curriculum accordingly. Visits looked at this both on paper and in the classroom. Under Curriculum Areas on the website you can see the result of work on this.

Once the priorities in the School Development Plan have been approved, governors are then responsible for scrutinising progress made towards achieving the goals set out in the plan. Each governor visits the school at least once a year, and these visits will focus on one or more areas of the School Development plan.

THIS YEAR'S SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

You can find attached a summary of this year's school development plan. Some of these are longer running priorities that will take more than one year to meet, while others are designed to be achieved within one academic year.

FINANCE



Governors are also responsible for scrutinising the school's accounts. Given the incredibly difficult financial circumstances we are operating in, this has recently taken up a considerable amount of our time and energy. Parents will be aware from [press reports](#) that every school in the country is under severe financial pressure with 90% saying they will run out of money next year. The pandemic really hit us hard, and we are facing increased bills and increased staffing costs. These financial challenges have not been met by increased funding. Every school is struggling financially but some of our special characteristics make us more vulnerable than some. As a result, the school is now in its second year of running a deficit budget, drawing on the reserves we built up before the pandemic. In order to restore stability in the medium term, balance our budgets and re-build our reserves (in order, for example, to pay for capital costs) there will need to be some considerable effort put into fundraising.



Parents: We need you now, more than ever, to make this fundraising campaign a success. We hope each family can help in their own way. Watch out for further fundraising details and please also make your quality contributions.

Eden Governing Board
November 2022