



Governor News – 24/4/2015

Just before the Easter holidays, Tony held one of his 'Meet the Head' sessions where parents and carers are invited to come along and discuss whole school issues. As well as a chance for parents to meet Tony, there are always at least two parent governors in attendance (on this occasion there were three of us!) and so it also doubles as a good opportunity for parents and carers to meet their elected governors, should they wish to do so.

This meeting mainly covered three broad areas:

Launch of the New Website

Tony had hoped that this meeting would have signalled the launch of our new eSchools website but unfortunately, technical hitches have delayed that launch until early on in the next half-term. Tony did navigate around a version of the impressive new website for us which led to a discussion on email and how it will be used with the new system. In the first instance, teachers and the PTA would have email addresses attached to this system, allowing parents to contact them directly. In the second instance, all years will have access to email and all children will be given training to use the system safely and appropriately. Tony pointed out that sending and replying to email was now part of the national curriculum along with E-safety lessons. There were several inbuilt measures in place to protect children, such as a 'bully button' and words (including certain misspelt words!) that will trigger an alert to the class teacher. Protocol for staff on issues arising from the new system will be put in place prior to launch.

School Development Plan

From September, governors will agree a new school development plan which will consist of four or five overarching targets, with more specific targets within them. While our Key Stage 2 results are consistently above average, we would like to see further improvements in our writing levels and this is likely to be one of the areas of focus. We would also like to see improved outcomes for our pupil premium children and this is likely to be another target in the development plan.

Playground Update

Tony was pleased to report that a recent LA inspection of the playground led the inspector to be impressed by the range and quality of the activities the children have during their time outside. The PTA were going to meet with Tony to discuss how PTA funds can be spent to further improve permanent structures installed in both the short and long term.

Parents asked a number of questions, including the following:

- Has the school improved teaching since the last inspection? (This was one of the targets in the last OFSTED report.)

Tony was pleased to report that in his view there has been an improvement in the overall level of teaching across the school, as a result of various initiatives.

- Pedestrian Safety on East Road/Burleigh Street

A parent brought up the issue of safety for children en route to and from school at the neck of East Road and Burleigh/Norfolk Street. At present, the crossing is used by cyclists and pedestrians with no markings to delineate the two. In addition, cars are using the cut through between Adam and Eve St and East Road (past Charlie's) which, combined with cyclists who are permitted to cycle down Burleigh and Fitzroy Street in the mornings, creates a further potential hazard for children walking to and from school. On behalf of the governors, I have

sent an email highlighting these concerns to the relevant people in the council and look forward to updating you on progress with this in future emails. If any other parents or carers would like to discuss this issue with me, I am very happy for you to contact me directly on: jdean@stmatthews.cambs.sch.uk