

Governors' Newsletter

A warm hello to all in our School Community!

We hope you and your children are keeping well and enjoying the varying spells of sunshine we have had thus far, looking forward to some more bright and sunny days! We have made it to the end of another year of schooling, well done everyone! It has been great for Governors to be in school; to be able to see the children develop and flourish and it continues to be a real privilege for us to be part of the outstanding community at The Gateway.

Governing Board Focus

Chair's update – How do governors monitor the school?

A key role for governors is to monitor what the school is doing to see how well the school is progressing against the School Improvement Plan. We do this in several ways, such as:

- Visiting the school to talk to staff and pupils about the curriculum and other key areas, observe lessons and look at the whole school environment.
- Looking at school data, such as phonics and key stage 1 results.
- Speaking with senior leaders.
- Listening to views from parents and carers via surveys and at events

As a governing body, our main priorities remain to;

- Ensure that learning and behaviour standards are outstanding and attainable by the children.
- Support the school in achieving its set aims and objectives.
- Ensure that the pastoral care of our pupils is outstanding.
- Support periodic review of existing policies and set targets & ensure that new policies are in place and in line with regulatory requirement.
- Promote equality, inclusion and safeguarding of all pupils and staff.

In discharging these responsibilities, we ensure that the educational and developmental needs of every pupil remain front & centre and that our children are provided with an outstanding primary-level education that gives them the best possible start in life.

What have we been involved in this term?

Since we wrote to you at the start of this year, we have continued to conduct monitoring visits; these are in-depth observations conducted across the school; which give us the opportunity to review core subjects in detail as well as interview the subject leads about their plans for the future of their various subjects. We have seen significant strides in achieving our school development plan and would like to thank all the staff and children we met on the visit days for being so engaging and welcoming of us. It has been immensely rewarding to see the children's progress and listen to them speak so passionately about what they have been learning throughout this year and gather feedback from them on their time at The Gateway.

Update from Governors meetings

Below are some of the key areas looked at:

- The Headteacher's Report was discussed, and governors asked questions as well as challenging and praising. It is an extremely important document for governors and covers everything that goes on across the whole school per term
- School attendance figures were looked at, and several important policies have also been reviewed, updated, and approved
- School management accounts, variances and debts were discussed and scrutinised by the relevant committees including a discussion on energy prices and its impact on the school

- All governors take responsibility for curriculum development where action plans were reviewed alongside subject leaders; lessons were watched and children's outcomes were discussed
- Feedback was given from the school improvement plan to, monitoring visits & governors were able to review and critique numerous pupil data summary report(s) across the school

Training

Governors have continued to access on-line trainings to keep abreast of relevant regulatory and statutory policies. What we ask of you is to regularly visit the school's website, to update yourselves with information on statutory policies and school activities.

Policies & Regulatory Focus

We continue to work with the school to ensure policies are maintained and up to date and we have held our Full Governing Board meetings termly (as well as all of our committee meetings) in-line with the stipulated governance cadence.

Punctuality/Attendance

Our school's aim is to achieve 97% attendance across the school. As governors, we remain resolute in working with the school to achieve this. We encourage parents and carers to work in partnership with us to ensure that their child(ren) come to school daily and are punctual.

Behaviour

Our approach to behaviour management using Golden Rules and Golden Time is to develop children's understanding of acceptable social behaviour and citizenship. We encourage parents and carers to work in partnership with us to ensure that all pupils can live up to the school's expectations on behaviour.

Around the school, Activities & Sports

Last term flew by as it was a remarkably busy one! with a lot of our children showcasing their dedication and hard work. We take immense pride in their exceptional levels of attainment across the school and commend all of our children's efforts. We would like to thank all the staff and the parents for preparing and supporting all our children at The Gateway to achieve their goals. Some noteworthy sporting achievements are detailed below:

- Gold Sports Mark
- Y3 and Y4 Dartford handball winners
- Football Finals Day at Princes Park (3rd place)
- Y5 and Y6 Swanley athletics competition (4th)
- Sports Day (Whole school)
- Y1 and Y2 fives football festival
- Y1 and Y2 multi skills festival

In Other News

There have been some staff changes over the course of this year; while it is always sad to see valued members of the team move on, we are looking forward to seeing the impact that new staff will have on the school, hopefully for some time to come. Our thanks go to you as parents and carers for your continued support to the school and the children throughout this academic year.

This term we say goodbye to two of our long-standing governors - Sally Nefzaoui and Peter Harman who have both made huge contributions to the governing body here at The Gateway. We are supremely grateful to Sally and Peter for their support and inputs to The Gateway Governing Body to date, and we wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

All that remains is for us to wish you a wonderful summer break and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Taiwo Oyekan & Gaynor Oakes
Co-chairs Governing Body – The Gateway Primary Academy