



Mudford Community Infants School

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Headteacher : Duncan Churchill

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this year's Governors report to parents and carers. The report gives you an insight into how the school is doing and the role that the governors have had. We hope that you and your children have enjoyed this past year and your involvement with the school.

The past couple of years have seen many changes, not least of which has been the implementation of a new curriculum, and also the way in which the school assesses how the children are getting on with it. There have been parent workshops for years 1 and 2 in regards to this. It has provided many challenges to the staff at the school, but the feedback to the governors has been very positive. We have seen a very considered and measured handling of this transitional period. Most importantly we are in no doubt that all of the teachers and support staff hold the children and their needs at the centre of any decisions they make.

When monitoring the data that is presented to the governing body it is evident that the progress the children make whilst attending our school is above what is expected nationally- if you would like to find out more then you can visit <http://dashboard.ofsted.gov.uk>. In future, as the new curriculum is developed the website will change, but information will still be accessible through Ofsted and we will keep you informed of this.

The governing body has recently assessed the parental questionnaires returned by you. We have also visited the school to find out the children's perspective on their education. Interviewing the children is a favourite for us as we can always rely on them to be brutally honest and give us their unedited view of the school! The children were amazing, and each governor involved in this process reported how funny and inspiring all of the children were, giving us a refreshing insight into what their daily routine is like. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with the children reporting they were very happy at school, felt safe, and that the adults cared for and treated them fairly.

In last year's parent questionnaires the subject of bullying was raised; mainly over parents not knowing how the school managed this sensitive issue. Over this academic year Mr Churchill has issued guidance in letters sent home in the children's book bags which we hope you found useful. He continued to talk to the children about what bullying is and what to do about it. This has not been raised as an issue this year, however, if you have any further questions please discuss this with your class teacher, Mr Churchill or ourselves. We take bullying extremely seriously, all allegations are investigated thoroughly, and behaviour is dealt with appropriately. Also actual cases of bullying are extremely rare.

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The feedback from parents this year has been very positive with great confidence shown in those that care for and teach our children daily. Unfortunately not all parents responded; it would be great to hear from more next year to help give us a picture of how you feel about the school. Two areas have been brought to our attention: The first was that 9% of you were unsure regarding the role of homework and the level that it has been set at. We will address this issue in the coming academic year with Mr Churchill and aim to provide greater clarity on the role of homework. Secondly 16% were unsure as to how to contact governors of the school. This information is provided at the bottom of each weekly newsletter, and we now have a Governors section on the school website where more details are available.

We would also like to let you know some more regarding the role of the governor at the school and what this entails. Governors are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards. The role of the governing body is absolutely key to the effectiveness of a school.

The role of the governing body is a strategic one, its key functions are to ensure good governance and to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school
- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives
- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher (a critical friend)

As governors we attend between 6 and 18 meetings per year, take part in training courses and also come into the school on many other occasions to provide support and monitor. We wear badges to help identify us, and our photos are on the board in the main reception. There are two parent governors allocated to each year group and their details are displayed outside the relevant classrooms. You can contact us through the main reception, or write and post it in the school postal system addressed to an individual governor or the governing body. Alternatively, you can contact the Clerk to the Governors, their details are also on the website.

Governors are also there to support parents and can help you with a number of issues: If you have points that you would like raised at a governors meeting then you can discuss this with any of the governors and they will raise these for you. For example this could be regarding what is included in your child's education or how you and your child are finding your experience at the school. If you feel you cannot discuss something with a staff member, or if you have already discussed something and want it considered further, you can bring that to us as an unbiased third party and we will look into the matter further for you. If you would like more information on the role of the governor then the National Governors Association website is very useful at: www.nga.org.uk.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continuing support that helps to make our school as fantastic as it is. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely summer holiday and good luck to all the year 2 children as they carry on to the next phase of their education. We look forward to a new academic year and our school continuing to thrive.

Yours sincerely

The governing body of Mundeford Community Infants School