

Launde Primary School

Governor Newsletter

March 2020

As we began writing this, the term was well underway, Governor visits had taken place and the school was busy with children and staff carrying on their normal routines, excited about learning and looking forward to the summer term full of sunshine and the usual outside activities. In a short space of time, the government announced school closures, an unprecedented action that will be talked about in history lessons for many years to come.

As ever, Launde Primary School was prepared to go the extra mile and remain open for pupils of key workers, making sure we support the front line workers in the challenges that they face at the NHS and supporting services. The school quickly put systems in place to support children being at home, ensured government guidelines were adhered to and arranged a child care facility. As we write this, our small group of children are busy making shortbread biscuits and doing Easter egg weaving as well as completing their work packs that all children received. The Governors would like to thank staff for creating these packs so quickly and arranging online learning at home. It was a mammoth task.



We know schools are closed for many of you in the foreseeable future which feels very unusual and we thank you all for following the governments advice of staying at home. Let us hope that with our combined efforts, this really does make a difference.

At the beginning of the Spring term, we were business as usual and would now like to share some of the activities the Governors have been involved in.

Visits

The Governors carried out a maths, English and safeguarding visit. This involved meeting members of staff, children and the school leaders to explore current practises and procedures.

Mr Plaha: Mrs Thompson, a Trustee, and myself met with Mrs Sitaram, the Maths Subject Lead. We had the honour of completing a tour around the school, capturing the excitement and focus of the children in their maths lessons. I was impressed with the standard of work the children were achieving and the different strategies the teacher were using throughout the school to help the children understand and apply their skills. In Foundation, children were listening attentively and were encouraged to develop their answers to articulate the maths skills developed- one child explained how they could add up the numbers on the dice rather than step count. We then had a very informative discussion with Mrs Sitaram about targets, next steps and resources. We were very impressed with what we saw around school and were able to have a professional dialogue with Mrs Sitaram. We are looking forward to supporting the school with further visits upon reopening. Our thanks goes to Mrs Sitaram for her time and to the staff for all their hard work.





we attended where students and The Wardrobe). In an age respond and engage well with and there was plenty of quick and insightful interaction when the teacher posed questions.



Mr Thomas: As a joint visit with Mrs Richards, Chair of the Trust, I met with Mr Woodhead, the English Subject Lead. The focus was an insight into the school's approach to Literacy and the ways in which we encourage pupil engagement. We completed a tour of some of the classes as well as having a discussion about targets and actions completed, finishing with a review of a selection of workbooks from each year. I observed a very vibrant and enthusiastic approach to both learning and discussing the material, that went much further than simply asking students to memorise information or prepare for tests. A standout of the visit was a Year 4 class that were learning from a classic children's story (The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe). In an age of increasing technology, I was pleased to see the children working from physical copies of the book. All pupils listened well and there was plenty of quick and insightful interaction when the teacher posed questions.

The pupils also had a lot of interactive material on the walls that relates to literature and literacy, this was a common theme through the different age groups. When reviewing the workbooks, I noted a good amount of both positive feedback and following up on areas that pupils may have required correction or further work.

My thanks to Mr Woodhead for his time and to the teachers and pupils for welcoming us into their classrooms.

Mrs Sheffield: Along with Mr Padgett, our designated Safeguarding Trustee, I completed the annual safeguarding audit. To complete this rigorous audit, I spoke to new and experienced members of staff, members of the senior leaders, studied school policies and the procedures in place as well as speaking to a very confident and informative school council. I am pleased to report that all systems are in place and the school takes all measures to ensure children are safe whilst on site as well as ensuring the children have the appropriate teaching in place at different ages to understand the importance of being safe both within school, in the community and online. My thanks to all at the school for giving up the time to help me collect all the necessary evidence for this. A full report will be presented to the governing body in the summer term.



Skills Audit and Training

As Governors we are keen to ensure we have up-to-date training and are fully skilled so we can ensure we are completing our role to the best of our ability and are able to hold the school to account, ensuring that the children at Launde have the best possible education. We completed an audit of skills to recognise the skills set we have within the Governing Body. This also meant we were able to target our own personal training appropriately, as we are all learners however experienced we are.

One area in which we all felt it would be important to receive training in was the new Ofsted framework that came out recently. We received two hours of excellent training one evening this term from a Leicestershire County Council trainer, along with Governors from Glenfield Primary School, our partner school. We felt this was extremely valuable and gave us further questions to consider and pose to the full governing body and senior leaders as well as information about the current Ofsted procedure.

Our School Parent Officer

At one of our meetings this term, we were presented with a very detailed analysis of the role of Mrs Groenewald, the Parent Officer at Launde. Staff talk very confidently about her role with the school and the impact and support she has given to pupils and parents. We can see from the range of work she does that she provides a valuable service for the school community from producing information leaflets for the parents on a wide range of topics, running a

weekly coffee morning to working with individual families where a friendly face and a listening ear is required. The list is endless. She has built up the school website with important links to a range of outside agencies too. Not many schools have a person dedicated to working for and with parents so we are very proud of have this at our school.

Should you wish, you can contact Mrs Groenewald via the school office.



Welcome to Madam De Bue

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new languages teacher Madam De Bue, who works with children in Y3 – Y6 in our school and in Glenfield Primary School. She has settled in to the school team very well and the children have been getting to know her this term.



Outreach Work

For one day a week, Madam De Bue works in two other schools, which we are supporting, teaching Spanish to the children. The children in the schools would not normally be able to access specialist language tuition so we are very pleased to provide this opportunity for other pupils in our area.



We were pleased to hear that Launde also welcomed children from Year 3 and Year 4 from Stathern and Buckminster Primary Schools when took part in a science show at our school. Neil Monteiro, an experienced Science presenter based in the UK, works all over the world on science-based videos and stage shows. It was a definite treat for our children to meet him and be inspired by the science show he shared with them.

In the afternoon we heard that the stage was handed over to the children. Led by Mr Mukadam, our own Science Subject Lead, the children from all three schools shared the science experiments that they have been working on over the term with the other children in the schools. The children shared their projects with passion, enthusiasm and strong scientific learning. It was superb to hear the collaboration between children from different schools and the many benefits this collaborative approach has both to the children and the participating staff.



There has been so much going on at school this term as you can see and we are grateful to the staff, pupils and parents for creating such a positive and inspiring community that we are all part of. In a time of uncertainty and concern in the country, we do wish you all well.

Please take care of yourselves,
from Launde Governing Body

