

Long Marston V A C of E Primary School

Meeting of the Governing Body on Tuesday 16th March 2021 at 18:30pm

Minutes

'Rooted in God's love, we rejoice to learn & respond to challenge'

Present:

Rev J Banister	(JB) (Chair)	Mr N Anderson	(NA)
Mrs C South	(CS)	Mr S Pitchers	(SP)
Mrs L Annett	(LA)	Mr S Dawkins	(SD)
Mrs J Finlan	(JF)	Mrs L Bancroft	(LB)
Mrs K Jaquet	(KJ)		

In Attendance: Mrs S Moore **(SM)** (Clerk to the Governors) Mr A Scahill **(AS)** SLT Mrs Jackie Kelly **(JK)** Prospective New Governor

NO.	Item	Action
1	To receive apologies and approve absences Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Absent with apologies Eileen Springford (ES) – unable to access Zoom Absence approved.	
2	Declaration of Interest Governors reminded that they must declare any conflict of interest, both pecuniary and other, that refers to an item on the Agenda. Governors should make known at this point any items that they intend to raise under 'Any other business' so that all Declarations of Interest are based on all matters to be discussed. No declarations made regarding the Agenda or Any other business.	
3	To approve the Minutes of 09.02.2021 meeting The minutes agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.	
4	To consider any matters arising from the Minutes of 09.02.2021 None raised	
5	COVID Update CS reports that from 8 th March school was open to all children. Last week there were lots of happy staff and happy children. It is lovely to have everyone back. Prior to returning, our risk assessment and policies updated. No staff raised any concerns and are all really happy being back in school. We used the Newsletter to highlight key issues to parents. We kept putting those key aspects in. The main change was around the use of face masks. We have asked parents to wear masks when dropping off and collecting. Staff have been asked to use masks when talking with parents. They can also use masks around school if they are more comfortable with this. Lots of mention of good ventilation in school. This just means there need to be periods of time of good ventilation. Last week we had 98.4% of our children that had returned, two that didn't was because their parents had been in contact with COVID. We have 95.6% of staff having returned and the one that has not is because they're having to shield until Easter. Yesterday we had 100% attendance, which is excellent. The important thing at the minute is the children's wellbeing, settling them back in and getting into routines. PHSE is high on our timetable. We need to stretch concentration spans. Stamina is key. We have 5 members of staff trained in Drawing and Talking therapy, they are all supporting children with that, we have boosters going on and some group work. Last week and next is all about baselines for our children to see where they are currently	

sitting. Wellbeing of staff - everybody seemed really happy to be back. They felt well informed & supported. Everyone was exhausted by the end of the week. We are always forwarding emails. SLT are always available to talk. We have catch up funding going on. It was set up to start in January, which obviously didn't go ahead. We used data from the Autumn term to decide which of our children would be the right focus. We felt the focus needed to be in KS2 primarily with YR6 and then other groups in class 3 and 4. **AC/RW** are carrying out the catch up, providing personalised catch up. We applied for a second batch of COVID funding. We haven't heard anything yet. It has been a very positive start back.

Q – So testing for staff is pretty much part of the routine now? A – We've been testing for quite a while now. We've also incorporated others into the group, the guitar teacher, woodwind teacher and parent volunteers in the school.

Q – The children that are back. Are they where they should be, are they further behind?
A – It is very difficult to say at this stage. We are doing our assessments at the minute.

18.44hrs **LB** enters the meeting

LA comments that she is assessing the children at the moment. She has heard all of them read. There are some children that have been reading during lockdown, there are some that haven't. Some have stayed where they were in Autumn, some have moved on and it is the same in other curriculum areas.

AS Maths drills. Some have clearly been doing them. Some haven't. We have been doing writing the last couple of days it has been fantastic. I think because a lot of them have been doing a lot of reading. The impact of having **AC/RW** in class has been fantastic. It's already really successful.

Q – Have you found behaviour a bit of an issue? A – Last week we would say no. But this week we have a few more pushing boundaries. It's more about shouting out. Saying no when asked to do something.

18.48hrs **NA** enters the meeting

Q - I was going to ask about the impact on teaching. What teaching strategies are you having to adapt? What are teachers desperate to change that would make teaching easier? A – I would like my class not to be sat in straight lines facing the front. I'm heavily reliant on peer support. More movement around the classroom.

LA feels the same. It has felt not much like an infant classroom this year. We don't have our carpet area. We normally would move for different subjects, so we do sit more for ability in maths.

Heads Report - Verbal

We have 127 on role ranging from between 23-29 in classes. September our numbers are very low, we only have 10 joining us. Interestingly at the Heads meeting other schools numbers are also low.

Q – How many do you have leaving? A – 25

Staff

We have one member of staff isolating. **KW** returned from maternity leave. She had broken her ankle during maternity leave. She's just had an operation to remove the metal work. **RW/WS** have stepped in to cover Class 4. **HP** is leaving at Easter. Part of her time **RW** will cover. **AS** has kindly offered to take on the Music subject lead.

Safeguarding

Stage 1 training all the staff will need in November. That is booked in for the inset day in November. All training is up to date. We have had some First Aid training take place remotely for four members of staff.

Child protection

We have one family being monitored very closely by us and Children's Services.

Topics

We moved around some of our topics during lockdown as Oak Academy were doing certain topics. Staff are looking at what needs to be covered.

CPD

Uploaded to Governor HUB. It has been remote learning at the moment.

Attendance

Everyone has returned which is good. Even families we didn't think would return have. A particular family that has never returned has, which is lovely.

Staff Meetings

We have continued our Monday meetings via zoom. We start with a COVID update. After an initial meeting the support staff drop off and teaching staff stay on. They have been very different meetings. It is much harder over zoom but keeps everyone in the loop.

Enhancing Curriculum

We have done quite a few bits. The author visits have been a great success. They have been free. The timing is concise, so can be better than having someone in school. We kept Forest School going throughout for the CWV children. This week Class 3 start Forest School for about 7 weeks. Class 2 will follow. **IB** has a Forest School qualification, so she will take Class 1 into that area for the remainder. We celebrated Science week, the children had to make an insect. We have had World Book Day, we have Comic Relief coming up on Friday dress as a Superhero. **WS** is just organising an Islam visitor for next term virtually. Virtual Sports Day which **AS** organised through Premier Sport. Unfortunately, only 51 children took part which is quite low. The photos sent in were fabulous. Breakfast and After School clubs have continued. It is unlikely any other clubs will be starting until September.

Pupil Premium

We currently have 17 FSM and 19 PP children. Once the data is in **KJ/CS** will meet to discuss.

Leadership and Management.

HIP was in today. **CS** met remotely and discussed a whole range of things, Curriculum, pupil/staff wellbeing. He feels he will be able to support the new Head in their transition. Potentially using the Summer visit to meet with **CS** and him.

Health & Safety

None to report.

Lesson Observations

Lack of lesson observations and moderation. All put on hold. Were down to do in these three weeks but decided to cancel them. Maybe put in place in Summer Term.

Sports Premium

Forest School has continued. Outside area has halted whilst we wait for planning permission. Application is in and it's actually online. Today **CS** wrote a letter and attached a supporting statement which was delivered to all the neighbours.

Our Church School

Our CW has continued and our Christian values. **JB** will be coming back into school. RE has continued in our lessons throughout lockdown, and we have red noses going on for our charity work.

Data

Baseline is taking place now. We'll analyse this and have PPM after Easter to ensure we are meeting the needs of our children. Have continued our PPM throughout lockdown.

Q – What is a HIP A – A Hertfordshire Improvement Partner. It's something we buy into. We get four visits. One is the Heads performance management. Termly visits for lesson observations, look at books.

Q – Heard something mentioned about not running clubs. What is the current guidance?
A- Not going to bring them back in yet. PE can take place outside. Guidance for clubs is all about providing clubs to help parents with wrap around care. The concern about running lots of clubs would mean mixing our bubbles.

6 Personnel

Minutes circulated prior to meeting

CPD as **CS** mentioned has still taken place, which is fantastic. There has been a spirituality Course, Course on Islam. First Aid and Early Years Maths have all carried on despite school being closed. The staff questionnaire was discussed. Reads extraordinarily well. Only one person disagreed with anything. 100% strongly agree the school is well led. 100% agree the school is a happy place to work. There was a reduced amount of responses, only 14 out of 24 potential replies.

7 Resources

Minutes circulate prior to meeting

Some of the things we do annually have been done. One of the things we do is benchmark ourselves against other schools. Budget we are near year end. Had no additional budget information when we met. We will have fewer pupils next year. There is talk that there may be increased funding per child, but unable to find anything about it. Quite a bit of funding for COVID has been received. Hopefully there is more to come.

Q – COVID has been a huge expenditure for cleaning. Are we still in deficit? A – Most of the money has come in. There were three sections but very narrow criteria. Cleaning, Premises changes, FSM. Different guidance said different things. Another section was for other costs that didn't fit the main 3 sections. I claimed for all relevant costs but haven't received them all.

8 GDPR

Nothing to report.

9 Safeguarding

Training is all up to date. We have one family that we are looking at closely along with Children Services.

10 Governor Monitoring

It is very limited as to what we can do in terms of people coming in. We won't have Governor Day now. What Governor Day does is tick a lot of monitoring off. Some things we will be able to do **CS/KJ** will meet and discuss PPG and Equal Ops. **ES/CS** will meet to catch up on Safeguarding. We currently don't have a H&S Governor at the moment and we don't have a Sports Premium Governor. **NA** volunteered to take on H&S role and **SD** volunteered to take on Sports Premium.

11 AUP

Governors reminded to confirm they have read the policy.

12 Governor Training

OFSTED Training has been pushed back to 22nd June.

Currently we pay £599 annually for Governor Training. This includes Governor Hub and annual in house training. Although each course individually can cost £150. We just need to make sure that we make use of it.

Complaints and exclusion Training needs to be completed every 2 years. It is really important to keep this up to date because if we needed to form a panel you would have had to be trained within two years.

13 Correspondence

None

AOB

Meeting closed at 19.18 pm

Date of next

Meeting: Tuesday 11th May 2021 18.30