

Long Marston V A C of E Primary School

Meeting of the Governing Body on Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 18:30pm

Minutes

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

Present:

Rev J Banister **(JB)** (Chair)
Mrs C South **(CS)**
Mrs L Annett **(LA)**
Mrs J Finlan **(JF)**

Mr N Anderson **(NA)**
Mr S Pitchers **(SP)**
Mr S Dawkins **(SD)**
Mrs L Bancroft **(LB)**

In Attendance: Mrs S Moore **(SM)** (Clerk to the Governors) Mr A Scahill **(AS)** SLT

| NO. | Item | Action |
|-----|--|--------|
| 1 | <p>To receive apologies and approve absences</p> <p>Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Absent with apologies Eileen Springford (ES) – unable to access Zoom, Kathryn Jaquet (KJ) Stuart Dawkins (SD) will be slightly late</p> <p>Absences approved.</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>Governors were reminded that they must declare any conflict of interest, both pecuniary and other, that refers to an item on the Agenda.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No declarations were made regarding the Agenda or Any other business.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>To approve the Minutes of 08.12.2020 meeting</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>To consider any matters arising from the Minutes of 08.12.2020</p> <p>CS answered a question raised at the last meeting to confirm KW will back on the 22nd February after half term.</p> <p>There was also a question from the Heads Report about numbers starting in September. At the moment, numbers are quite low with only 9 having us as a first choice. This does not include Bucks children for the moment. That is just the Hertfordshire children.</p> <p>SP comments on how impressed he is with how well school is managing SEN. In all cases it is either expected or exceeding, with only two action points. He wanted to say how robust he feels it is and how the amount of time school spend on meeting about each SEN pupil is just remarkable.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>COVID Update</p> <p>CS explains school is currently closed to most children and staff and will continue to be until at least the 8th March when we are awaiting further information and guidance. We have had no cases of COVID-19 in school for staff. The only pupil cases have been when children were already isolating with their families. We have settled back to being in school really well. Everything is calm and organised. Everyone is feeling settled and happy. This was reflected in the last staff questionnaire.</p> <p>Remote learning is in place. We have used Oak Academy to provide our live lessons and our teaching for our pupils. We have used this to link in with our current curriculum.</p> | |

Alongside that are two one hour zoom sessions that the teachers give daily. 10-30 minutes of one of these sessions is teacher interaction, either teaching, reading stories or playing games.

18.38hrs SD Joins the meeting.

In the other session there is opportunity to talk with the children. There has been some one to one teaching, or sometimes group work. We are looking to expand this after half term. This week in Class 1 **IB** has started to do some Phonics via zoom. Although nervous it seems to have gone really well. Children are getting regular feedback on work submitted as well as work shared in zoom. We have managed to put Google Classroom in place now for all our classes. It is rolling out really well, especially with our older children. There are lots of questions and dialogue in the class stream. Talking with other Dacorum schools there is a real range of learning going on. This is working well for us. We have children in school, our vulnerable and critical worker children. The numbers are steadily rising. We have between 27 and 29 children in everyday spread right across the school, which is about 20%. We have 13 from Class 5, 4 from Class 4, 7 from Class 3 and 2 and 8 from Class 1. Class 1 and 2 have been split into smaller groups so they can do more one to one and group teaching with them so they aren't on a computer all day. Support staff and **HP** are on a rota to support in school. We are trying to minimise how long they are in school. Staff are generally in 2 ½ days a week overall. We have breakfast and after school club running and either **BB** or **SM** in covering the Office all week, but even if they are at home they are still working. Staff supporting the CWV children are doing a tremendous job. The children seem to be really enjoying being in school. They have been doing a whole range of activities such as making bread, modelling with clay, they have done some really lovely things.

SP comments that his son has been in school and has loved it. He had the opportunity to go to Forest school and was surprised when this came about. He also does the remote teaching with him at home. **IB** phonics went really well and thought she did a great job.

LB comments she feels really lucky that her children are able to come into school. It has been good for them. TA's are doing a brilliant job and her children are really happy.

SD also comments that the interaction for his children with their friends is a very welcome break from home and coming into school is helping an awful lot.

CS continues to report that there have been five DFE laptops received and distributed to vulnerable and PPG families. Nearly all of these families have been seen at some point through the laptops although it has taken a while to get some of them to use them.

Q – Of vulnerable children, have you got most of them in at least some of the time? A – We don't have many that fall in the category. We have maybe one that definitely does, and then others that we have hand picked. But yes they are in at least once. But most are critical worker families.

CS continues, school have received a further three laptops donated from a local company and then a further three from DFE today. Some of these have been distributed, however we need to keep some in school with the CWV bubbles increasing. In terms of wellbeing there have been lots of follow up calls. We have about six families who we don't see and **AC** and **CS** call them on a Friday, **SM** also calls two of the families once a week as well. These numbers have dropped with some families appearing on the zoom meetings, which is really good.

We have a few members of staff who are trained in Drawing and Talking. We have managed to continue this either in school or via zoom with **AC**. It has worked really well. It feels really much better this lockdown. We have brought back in Star of the week for each class, and introduced the picture challenge, so keeping those links with parents. Staff wellbeing, there is a zoom meeting every Monday with all staff, then the support staff leave and the meeting continues with the teaching staff. **CS** meets weekly with **LA/AS** and **BB**. She sends regular emails and makes as many phone calls as she can. There are lots of regular COVID reminders about handwashing and ventilation. Everyone are now doing later flow testing twice a week. Staff are split into two separate groups. This includes cleaning staff and kitchen staff.

JB thanks all for doing a great job in tough circumstances.

6 **Our Church School**

CS reports that our values have continued in assemblies. This term our current value is Perseverance. Collective Worship is every Monday via zoom. **CS** gets children in school to help support her. Staff come along too. **JB** does a weekly worship, which is watched as a class on a Friday. **JB** has been recording Bible Stories which is supporting our RE work. We have an RE lesson every week as part of our home learning and **JB** has made links with families delivering their meals, school work and just generally connecting with them.

AS comments that he is loving **JB** Bible stories and intends to keep them as they have been a saviour. He feels that what **JB** has delivered in the stories would be very difficult to replicate.

7 **Personnel**

The minutes of the meeting were circulated to all prior to the meeting. No matters raised.

19.00hrs SP left the meeting due to poor internet connection.

8 **Resources**

JF reports that actions are progressing if and where they are able to. The data figures are now 6 weeks on. She felt they show genuine achievement, although it is clear that some children are struggling. But, feels things are as good as they can be.

Q – Are you able to see how individuals are performing or is it just too hard? A – No, we will complete baseline assessments when we are back in school.

AS comments that it is far too difficult as it is unclear how much work is actually being completed by the pupil themselves. Any assessment currently would not be realistic at all.

19.03hrs SP re joins the meeting

9 **Safeguarding**

We have one family who are a cause for concern. We are doing everything that we can. CPOMS has been great addition throughout the school. For example, if someone is spoken to, then a report can be created and all the relevant people are notified. As a tool it has been really effective.

JB comments that it was an investment that we were not too sure of at the time. But in the current climate it appears to have been really useful.

CS agrees and feels it has been a brilliant tool. It isn't just used as a CP tool. It can be used for outside agencies, communication and it allows you to go back and look at details.

CS advises that Stage 1 CP Training for the whole school needs renewing in November. This has already been booked.

10 **GDPR**

Richard Maskery has now become our DPO. He will come to meet termly. Currently this is via zoom. **CS** has been through a list of actions. We had 26 in total, there are only 10 left. Some of which were very minor. He checked for any breaches, Subject Access Requests and supplier logs, such as Nessy or other outside agencies. He feels GDPR needs to be a standing Agenda item. There were a few things missing, such as the print/hold procedure, but nothing major.

Term of Office

11 **LA's** Term of Office Expired in October. A staff nomination letter was sent out to all staff, with no additional person putting themselves forward for the post. **LA** term of office therefore has been rolled over for another 3 years. This was agreed by all.

JB advises that we have a new Foundation Governor that will be joining us. Jackie Kelly. She has her own children who are now grown up. It will be good to have someone on the board that it not a parent connected to the school.

Correspondence

12 None

AOB

13 Q – What, if anything is school doing about the pond? A – Nothing currently. It is not a safe area. There is a lot of ecology surrounding it because of Newts. We just don't have the money to maintain it currently. Even with a working party in place it would require constant maintenance at a cost.

Meeting closed at 19.18 pm

Date of next

Meeting: Tuesday 11th May 2021 18.30

