

2016-2017 Governors' Report to Parents

We have reached the end of yet another very busy year at Monkton Park School and it is with great pleasure that I am able to say that, once again, the children have enjoyed many experiences and opportunities to enhance and develop their education. On behalf of the governing body I would like to take this opportunity to share information with parents and carers about some of the activities that governors have been engaged with over the year. More importantly I would like to thank the many people within our school community, the children, staff, volunteers, parents and carers, who have all contributed to make the school the successful learning environment that it continues to be.

The Governing Body

The governors are proud to represent Monkton Park School as part of its governing body. The governing body is composed of volunteers from all walks of life who have an interest in helping to make the school the best it can be for your children. The aim of the governing body is to work together with the Head Teacher, teachers and children to help keep Monkton Park School a caring and positive place that will enable all of its children to fulfil their potential whilst enjoying their time at the school.

Governors can be parents of children in the school, or people with no connections with the school but who have a keen interest in the Chippenham community and want the best for your children. They will bring a variety of skills that will assist the whole governing body in achieving its aims.

Our key roles are to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; to hold the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and the children, the performance management of staff, to oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

In March of this year we welcomed Reverend Rod Key to join the governing body. Reverend Key has been a regular visitor to the school and has years of experience as a governor at other schools in the past. We are very pleased to now have him as a member of our governing body.

The full governing body meets six times a year and there are three subcommittees that meet throughout the year: Human Resources, Attainment and Curriculum, and Finance and Premises. The Chairs of each of these committees have provided an overview of the work that has been undertaken this year under the headings below.

For more information on our governing body please visit our web page <http://www.monktonpark.wilts.sch.uk/wilts/primary/monktonpark/site/pages/aboutus/governors>.

Committee Reports:

Finance and Premises

Governing bodies are responsible for making sure that the school's money is well spent, as you are all probably aware with increasingly tight budgets, juggling the school budget is a delicate balancing act. This year the School Business Manager, Sarah Quarrell has been working extremely hard to balance the budget to meet all the needs of the school and thanks to her excellent budgeting skills we have been able to carry out some additional work to the school including decorating the entrance hall, school hall and toilets. Along with the money from FOMPS we have been able to purchase additional interactive white boards so all classrooms have now been upgraded to the new boards, plus purchasing some books for the school library.

The number of pupils at the school continues to rise and as these children continue to move into KS2 we will maintain the budget for the additional class in Year 3.

Mr Barlow and the health and safety governors, Mr Jonathan Watts and Mr David Palmer, carry out health and safety walks three times a year; only minor issues have been picked up this year and any that were identified have all been acted upon.

Human Resources

Our major piece of work this school year has been in the recruitment of a new Head Teacher to take over after Mr Barlow retires from 1st January 2018. More on this recruitment can be seen elsewhere in this report. There have been a few other changes in staffing.

In September last year we welcomed teacher Helen Springthorpe to our newly opening Pine Martens class. Also we welcomed Lloyd Everson and Lisa Griffin as Teaching Assistants within the School. In the New Year we said goodbye to Kelly Partington and Lloyd Everson, Teaching Assistants, both moving to new jobs and Lloyd also to live in Cornwall. To replace them we had then recruited and welcomed Fiona Hurd and Claire Rishworth. At the Easter holiday teacher Caroline McCarthey went on Maternity leave and Penny Hamilton was recruited and then welcomed to be her cover in Hedgehogs class.

Finally the Governors are very sorry to say goodbye to our Governors Clerk, who has kept us in order for fifteen years, but is now stepping down at the end of term. We are delighted that Katie Kelly has agreed to take on this role as well as her current Admin role and Angela is offering her informal interim support as she learns the role. Thank you to all staff for their hard work whilst at Monkton Park School.

Attainment and Curriculum

The primary role of this committee is to ensure that the requirements of the National Curriculum are met, and that the school also offers a broad range of other opportunities outside the core curriculum. We monitor progress data throughout the year, ensuring that appropriately challenging targets are set and that the school is properly resourced to meet them. The committee members spend each of these meetings examining the data for each term, ensuring that good progress is steadily being maintained.

Create Learning School

For this year we would like to highlight the achievement of becoming the first Create Learning School in the South West. The school has a well-established commitment to PE and sport, with support from Create Development, Up & Under Coaching and the Chippenham Sports Partnership. The use of Create's real PE and real Gym has led to children of all abilities becoming more confident and engaged in PE and gym, and this has also had a wider impact across the curriculum in terms of improved learning behaviour. By becoming a Create Learning School we will have Create's on-going support, and will be a focal point for training and sharing of experience with other schools. Particular thanks must go to Mrs Douglas for all she has done to develop PE and sport in the school and to establish the partnerships that enable and support them.

The Create Learning School launch took place on the 8th June. The children took an active role in demonstrating the way the principles are integrated across all aspects of the curriculum. The launch was attended by Head Teachers, teachers and governors. Mrs Douglas spoke in depth about Monkton Park's experience and explained exactly how the



multi-abilities have been embedded throughout the school and have helped transform the attitudes, progress and learning of pupils, teachers and parents within their school community.

To find out more about the Create experience and these programmes contact Selina Porter at sporter@sheldonschool.co.uk or Rik Grover at rik@wiltssport.org

Governors' visits

During the year governors are invited into school during the day, as well as attending meetings after school. It provides an excellent opportunity for governors to meet the staff and children and to develop a fuller understanding of school life.

This year we had a very successful Governors' Day in March when governors were able to join in with classes throughout the school. We have also attended assemblies, Christmas productions, family picnics, the Christmas Fair, Summer Fair, and sports days. It has been great to see and meet so many parents attending these events.

Volunteers are an extremely important part of the community at Monkton Park and are highly valued. On behalf of the governors I would like to thank everyone who volunteers during the school day. We have a considerable number of people who hear children read throughout the school, thank you for your time, the children really benefit from your input.

Friends of Monkton Park School – FOMPS

The Chair of FOMPS has kindly provided an overview of the wonderful achievements made this year:

There has been a total of thirteen FOMPS events this academic year and these have raised approximately £8500, which is very impressive for a school of 243 pupils. This is testament to the special school community that we share and the mutual goal of parents and staff alike to give our children the best experience of primary school life that we can offer! We have seen the FOMPS committee almost double in membership this year, which means our events can only get bigger and better resulting in us being able to support the school even more effectively in the future.

On behalf of the governing body I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of FOMPS, and to the parents and carers of the children, for all the hard work and support they have shown in planning and running such amazing and profitable events during this year.

Finally, and most importantly, this year Mr Barlow advised us that he has decided to retire in December 2017. I am sure you will agree that Mr Barlow is an exceptional Head Teacher who, during his years at Monkton Park School, has worked incredibly hard to build a competent and dedicated team of staff who always put the interests of each child at the forefront of all they do.

The governing body wish to thank Mr Barlow for all his excellent work for the school and for all that he has achieved as Head Teacher in the past years. There is no doubt that his presence at the school will be greatly missed by all.

Mr Barlow demonstrated his continued commitment and dedication to the school by offering an extended period of notice to ensure that governors had time to run an intensive and successful Head Teacher recruitment process. The governors are very pleased and excited by the appointment of Mr Stephen Rafferty as the new Head Teacher for Monkton Park School. Mr Rafferty is the current Deputy Head of another local school. He comes to our school with years of experience of leading and teaching in a variety of schools across the

country and also further afield. During a very rigorous recruitment process he demonstrated to governors and staff that he is the right person to take Monkton Park School forward through the next phase of its growth. It will be exciting times for the school and for your children. I am sure that, as always, you will offer your full support to Mr Rafferty and the staff, thus ensuring that the school continues to provide the best learning opportunities for all of the children.

I would like to thank Mr Barlow and all the teachers and teaching assistants for their incredible input and dedication over the year. Despite the constant changes within the education system, the staff at Monkton Park School have, once again, risen to the challenges, and continued to provide all children with a range of stimulating opportunities which ensure that they enjoy learning and continue to aspire and achieve during their time with us.

On a personal note, I have come to the end of my three year term of office as a community governor and therefore will be standing down as governor and Chair in September. I have felt privileged to work with such a committed governing body, Head Teacher, staff group and such well mannered children who are a credit to you as parents and to the school. I am also proud to have been involved in the recruitment process for the new Head Teacher. I would like to take this opportunity to send my best wishes to you all for the exciting times ahead during the next school year. In the meantime I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Best Regards

Lynne Wootton
Chair of Governors