



## Governors' Newsletter

### February 2023

#### Focus on the Playground

### Happy Lunchtimes for all!

As governors we are often in school talking to children and staff as well as the required committee meetings. One of the things we found out while speaking to children last term was that there were some issues around lunch play.

As a result of this I would like to share with you what the school has done and what I have found out from once again talking to children, this time in the playground at lunchtime.

School has spent a considerable sum on additional training for midday supervisors, reviewed their timetable, reorganised lunchtime activities and employed the sports coaches for 2 lunch periods.

In addition to the climbing frames with their all-weather surface, the playground has been divided up into various activities which rotate around the weeks. Previously football took up a large amount of the playground. Now Prestige Sports run team games twice weekly for Key Stage 2 for those who want to join in. In the space where football used to be played were bats and balls when I was there, but I understand these change weekly. There was also a coned off area for skipping ropes, again an activity that changes. Air hockey, table football and Lego on the benches were very popular as were the traditional games which the midday supervisors are teaching the children.

Remember Grandmother's Footsteps? They report that some children are keen on the clapping games they are teaching which I certainly remember from my playground days many years ago.

Of course, in January, the grass was not suitable to play on, though the children could change into their wellies if they wanted to. When it becomes drier, reading, drawing and colouring will be available in the gazebo and there is a performance area too for budding stars!

The Lego table is the best thing!!!



It was a delight to see the children so involved and often in multi age-groups playing cooperatively. Both the midday supervisors and the children I spoke to like the new arrangements better. Well done, Miss Wass and her staff for being creative in the way they now use the space for the benefit of the children.

**Liz Chapman – Chair of Governors**

#### Focus on the Curriculum

### Reading Stars and Sport for All!

On a visit to school this week, Phil and I had a fascinating meeting with Mrs Lewis in her role as lead for English and Reading, and with Mrs Clark in her role as lead for P.E. Both provided an excellent update on plans they have for increasing standards across the school in their respective subjects.

Mrs Lewis told us about the new phonics training scheme that teachers are undertaking to help our children with their learning, and the continued effort being focussed on helping our children to attain handwriting standards. Mrs Lewis also told us about the fantastic new 'Reading Stars' initiative launched this term aimed at encouraging reading.



Mrs Clark informed us of her insightful work with Prestige Sport to ensure that the school has the best possible coach for the development of the children during P.E. lessons, including how she works with the company to ensure that they follow the school's policies and procedures. She also shared with us the work she is doing trying to connect with other local schools to arrange cross school sporting events.

**Jessica Surma – Parent Governor**

**Phil Dorrell – Co-opted Governor**

### Your Governing Body Needs You!

Could you use your experience to benefit our school by becoming a school governor?

As a governor, you can:

\*make a difference in your local community

\*develop your skills and experience

\*improve your knowledge about the education sector.

To find out more about becoming a school governor and the skills, time and commitment required, then please contact the School Office in the first instance, and we will be pleased to arrange an informal discussion with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.