

# Ashbeach Governor Newsletter

December 2020



Dear Parents and Staff



Season's greetings, we hope you all have a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break. Let us hope that 2021 is less challenging.

Many thanks to the several parents who are showing an interest in becoming a governor.

The governors were reviewing the attendance at our last meeting and we would like to thank parents for ensuring their children attend school and thank the staff for providing the children with an environment they feel safe in at school. It is taking a great deal of extra input and energy from all the staff which I am sure you will join me in thanking them for.

The governors have been attending various virtual training sessions including: Taking the Chair; Budget 2021-22; Safeguarding-a governor role; SEND for governors; Governor Induction; Safer recruitment; Termly LA briefing; E-learning and E-safety; Budget & Financial monitoring; Improving Outcomes for disadvantaged children.

At our meetings we always discuss Safeguarding and Health & Safety [which includes children and staff welfare in these Covid times] as standing items; in addition lately we have been reviewing the School Recovery Plan; the budget; we are also reviewing Academy Trust potential for our school as is required periodically with presentations from two trusts and the LA, if at any point we were to decide this was a possibility there would be wide consultation with parents. We support the school with premises issues for instance this term it has been the Wi-Fi replacement, and issues with the boiler.

## The governing board has the following 4 strategic functions:

Establishing the strategic direction, by:

- Setting and ensuring clarity of vision, values, and objectives for the school(s)/trust
- Agreeing the school improvement strategy with priorities and targets
- Meeting statutory duties

Ensuring accountability, by:

- Monitoring the educational performance of the school/s and progress towards agreed targets
- Engaging with stakeholders
- Contributing to school self-evaluation

Overseeing financial performance, by:

- Setting the budget
- Monitoring spending against the budget
- Ensuring money is well spent and value for money is obtained
- Ensuring risks to the organisation are managed

Ensure that other key players with a stake in the organisation get their voices heard by:

- Gathering the views of pupils, parents and staff and reporting on the results.
- Reaching out to the school's wider community and inviting them to play their part.

Using the views of stakeholders to shape the school's culture and the underpinning strategy, policies

## Chairs Challenge

When I was a headteacher each year I had a Headteacher Challenge, so I thought I would try a Chairs Challenge, here at Ashbeach. This was advertised in the schools November newsletter. Reading is so important and something I do daily. I am dyslexic [not that in the 1950s this was recognised] so as a young child I found reading a real challenge and something I didn't enjoy much until I started doing ballet classes and then started reading books on ballet, even though many terms were in French I stuck at it. So for reluctant readers finding an interest to read up on is so useful.



So, for this school year the challenge is for the children to read 15 of the 25 recommended books for their year group before the end of this academic year, they will receive a small prize, although reading is a gift in itself. To record the books read, please print off the book list and sign/date when your child has read the book. Please ask

him or her a few questions to recap the main storyline and discuss the characters. The, questions and lists are in the school newsletter.



Best wishes - Stay well  
Joan Morters Chair of Governors

