



Great Gaddesden C of E (Voluntary Aided) Primary School

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17th July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Governor Newsletter Summer 2018

Thank you for your support. As a Governor I am always very thankful that staff, families and governors work so well together at Great Gaddesden School so that every child can flourish

At our school, we have a team of twelve Governors – almost more Governors than staff! We therefore try to support the school fully, including running after-school clubs, listening to readers, accompanying school trips and attending school events. However our core responsibilities remain to:

- Set the strategy for the school
- Be a critical friend to the school to drive continuous improvement
- Meet statutory requirements such as setting policies, managing school finances and maintaining the buildings

The Full Governing Body meets every half term and earlier this month the whole staff and governing body held their annual strategy meeting.

We also have active sub-committees. At our Curriculum and Standards committee we invite a staff member to come and talk to us about their subject areas. In May, Mrs Jessop talked about the amazing work she is doing to support children with Special Educational Needs, and to lead Science across the school. In July, Mrs Lilley inspired us with the work she is doing to promote the Arts across the school, and to lead the History and Geography curriculum areas. These meetings are incredibly useful for both Governors and Staff: celebrating things that work well and discussing things that could be improved.

The Governors are incredibly grateful to the whole staff team for their enthusiasm, hard work and professionalism. We wish them all a relaxing summer holiday.

I would also like to let you know about two specific projects that will take place over the summer with the support of Governors.

Roof Project

Looking after a school with buildings that are 60 and even 160 years old, bring challenges when trying to provide 21st century education. Over the recent years the Governors have overseen significant

investment through a number of successful projects bringing our classrooms and the facilities that our children and staff enjoy to the modern standards we see today. There does come a time when it becomes necessary to tackle the less glamorous side of this process in terms of the structural fabric of the building.

Last summer as part of the works to improve our Year 3&4 classroom it became necessary to carry out a roof survey which confirmed that the 60 year old flat roof was at the end of its serviceable life. A significant amount of work has since been carried out, including a Conservation area planning application, Bat Survey and full tendering process. We have recently appointed a Contractor to carry out works commencing as soon as school finishes for the summer.

It is anticipated that works will take 8 weeks to complete. School will restart in September as normal, although there is likely to be scaffolding still in place (limited to around the office area and also the internal courtyard area) for the first 2 weeks of the school year. Although, remaining work at this point will be low risk from a Health & Safety perspective, it is important for parents to support the school in reminding children to keep away from any scaffolding that may be in place.

As with other recent capital projects, we have successfully applied to the Diocese of St Albans for grant funding for this project and we are grateful for their financial support.

Andrzej Gaudyn – agaudyn@greatgaddesden.herts.sch.uk

IT Contract Re-tendering

The IT Committee has overseen a competitive process to retender for IT support for the School, and we will be changing supplier over the summer holiday. We are confident that the support will be improved. One area of particular focus is to improve the electronic communication with parents and carers. I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as the lack of reliable electronic communication has been difficult for both school and families. I trust that the next Governor Newsletter will be in electronic format!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing summer holiday.

With very warm wishes,

Alison Wilkinson
Chair of Governors
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