

**Walford Nursery and Primary School Board of Governors -
Impact Statement and Briefing to Parents/Carers of Meeting
held on 8th July 2020 - Chair of Governors - Paul Deneen OBE
JP DL.**

Introduction

The Governing Board were fully aware of the disruption that there has been to parents/carers and to pupils and staff at the school, as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. The Headteacher and her staff have made superb efforts to do all they could to minimise disruption in order to support pupils at this time. Together with Key Worker children, priority groups of pupils were admitted back into school during June and, in July, Year 5 pupils were invited back into school. At the beginning of the school Summer holiday period, the new starters in Class R were invited into school for a transition picnic. We were most grateful to Ms George and 'Team Walford', for their dedication and professionalism. Staff most certainly went 'above and beyond', in relation to both the work of the school and with the comprehensive remote learning experience/s offered.

New arrangements for the Governors and their meetings via 'Zoom' became the norm. Following the national lockdown in March, I became aware of the new language which has been developed over time: lockdown, shielding, bubbles, clusters, local lockdown, test, track and trace, social distancing - 2 metre rule, blended learning, remote learning, key workers, face masks/covers, furloughing, algorithms...to name but a few! As you will be aware, within the world of education, each will have had an impact upon teachers, support staff, schools, pupils, parents/carers and local communities.

A Summary of the Key Discussions at the Governor's meeting of July is as follows:-

Headteacher's Report

Governor's received a comprehensive report from Ms George on the work undertaken at the school since our last meeting. There were lots of activities and events which were actioned and were all in line with recent Department for Education (DfE) guidance.

Year 6 leavers were involved in a creative 'Time Capsule'. Welcome packs, films and the transition picnic were organised for the new starters 2020. Walford's Summer Fun Club was a great success - weekly films updates can be found on the school website and Twitter feed. The nursery continues to go

from strength to strength and the feedback has been most positive.

Risk assessments have been put in place for September when all pupils will return to school, including an updated 'Home School Agreement'.

The School Business Committee and the School Finances/Budget.

The school budget remains healthy. There were no issues of concern raised or noted. The finance situation is reviewed on a monthly basis and reports are received on key spending and income. Advice is also received from the staff at the Herefordshire Council, and this helps us to ensure that all key guidance is followed and actioned.

A number of small individual projects were discussed and agreed so that work could be undertaken and completed before the beginning of term. New lighting for the hall, new doors to classrooms, an improved staffroom facility and a meeting room were all approved in readiness for the new school year.

Improved sports equipment for the hall was also agreed, and thus should make a real difference for every pupil. Health and safety policies and assessments regarding Covid-19 had been considered, reviewed and actioned. Advice from the DfE would also be updated in readiness for September 2020 start.

Standards Teaching and Learning Committee and the School Curriculum.

Governors received an update on all key issues concerning safeguarding, GDPR. There was a report on 'Pupil Premium' and the support being offered to pupils at this difficult time. There were no issues to note, and all arrangements were in place to support each individual pupil. The school had completed some excellent videos on key activities and work - all had been very well received.

The School Improvement Adviser, who is also an OFSTED Inspector, would be visiting the school and would be liaising with the Headteacher in relation to some agreed work and activities. A report would be prepared and shared with Governors. Staff continue to work incredibly hard, in order to support all pupils, whether at school, or via the remote home learning provision. Once again, feedback had been incredibly positive.

Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee and the school experience.

Governors had noted the unprecedented situation regarding Covid-19. This had led to the initial national 'lockdown'. Walford School remained open for the children of key workers and vulnerable pupils throughout that period. Throughout June and July, the school invited more pupils back to school, in line with DfE guidance.

Normal working procedures had been totally disrupted, however, senior leaders worked creatively and efficiently to ensure effective arrangements had been planned for and put in place. The remote home learning provision undertaken by Ms George and the team has been exemplary.

Governors have undertaken all necessary arrangements regarding staffing for September. In addition, there had been excellent communication with parents / carers, pupils and the community.

Governors - Update.

Governors were updated on key issues following various support documents from the Herefordshire Governor's Association, the National Governance Association (NGA) and Herefordshire Council. Online training and development was available from the NGA.

Following the information set out on the school website regarding Governor vacancies, there was a lot of interest expressed at the time. Victoria Darrington completed and submitted an application which was supported by nominations. Victoria Darrington has been appointed as a Parent Governor and induction arrangements will be arranged at the start of the new academic year. The governors look forward to working with her in the future.

The school website will also be updated in September in relation to governors and governance arrangements. As Chair, I will continue to provide a summary Impact Statement following each of our meetings. I think it is important to keep parents/carers updated on governance issues, and I hope that parents/carers find these summaries of use. Should any parent/carer have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office - I will always be very happy to assist.

Conclusion and Huge Thanks!

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking the pupils and parents / carers for their full support at this very

difficult time. The pupil's approach and their behaviour has been excellent - very well done to all concerned! We recognise that the disruption in relation to schooling has not been easy for anyone, however, we are most grateful to all parents/carers for their full support during this pandemic. Feedback continues to be very positive and the communication between home and the school has been well received.

The Headteacher, Ms George has provided superb leadership at this difficult time. Together with Mrs Hanham, Deputy Headteacher, and the whole Walford team, they have made every effort to do their utmost to support parents/carers, pupils and families. On behalf of the Governors, I thank Ms George and all of the staff for their magnificent efforts, dedication and professionalism - a great job, very well done!

I would also wish to thank our Clerk for her advice and support and for the excellent paperwork which is all much appreciated.

Governors have provided excellent support to the school as 'critical friends' and I know that this has been appreciated by all concerned. I also wish to thank them for their time, energy and commitment in supporting the school at this very unprecedented time.

Paul Deneen
Chair of Governors
August 2020