

Walford Primary School Governor's Meeting - March and April 2019.
Impact Statement - Chair of Governors - Paul Deneen OBE JP DL

We recently held a full governor's meeting at the end of March for the Spring Term. We were delighted to receive a letter from the Director of Children's Service at Herefordshire Council congratulating the school on its maths results and for receiving its letter from the Minister at the DFE regarding being in the top 1% for maths in the country.

I have enclosed a summary of the discussions of the recent governors meeting. Hopefully this will help to keep parents/carers and others interested in Walford Primary School up to date on governance issues.

Governors agreed to regularly check their declaration of interest/business interests at each committee and full governor meetings. This would ensure all information is up to date.

I reported to the governors on the hugely successful community luncheon with members of the local community joining the pupils and staff and governors for lunch. There has been some excellent work with the Ross Gazette on its history project. The BBC Hereford and Worcester news reporter Nicola Goodwin joined us at the lunch. She also did a feature on the support undertaken within Walford by its own Walford Community Support Scheme of supporting vulnerable people, which is funded by the Walford Parish Council. Michelle Lawson did a superb job in supporting this event with food and drink, and for this we are most grateful.

The Headteacher reported that there had been a leak of water at the school. This was being investigated by Welsh Water to try to locate the source. It is hoped to have the matter finally resolved and sorted over the Easter holidays.

The Headteacher spoke of the visit to Helsinki. Three members of staff were involved as part of specific funded training. The visit itself had been a great success. As a result, there were some very useful ideas and thoughts which would be shared with other staff at the school.

There had been a number of visits and visitors including Zoolab. This proved to be a great success.

The annual 'Red Carpet and Oscars Evening,' would be taking place the next day. All were looking forward to the event.

The PTFA do so much to support the school and all of the events. The Governors value and appreciate its work and are most grateful to all involved.

Governors have agreed to the proposal for the school to develop its own nursery provision at the school. This would commence from September 2019. There would be more information provided to parents/carers and interested parties over the next few months.

The governors would be considering the annual budget for 2019/2020 at its meeting in May. The current and projected budget are both in a positive state as a result of the hard work of staff and governors. The Business Committee actively monitors the progress of the budget and school funds. The committee regularly reports on this to governors. The governors would also be briefed on the school response to the School's Financial Value Standard documentation, which I would be signing off in mid April.

The Standards Teaching and Learning Committee has as part of its remit been reviewing pupil progress. The committee had been most encouraged by the evidence from the Headteacher and staff about pupil progress across the school. Governors also fully supported the many activities and events which had had an excellent effect on pupil engagement, motivation and process. The Vice-Chair of Governors would also be reviewing the school development plan, and safeguarding arrangements at the school with the Headteacher, and would report back on these at a future meeting.

The Pupils, Personnel and Community Committee would be meeting shortly to consider key issues. By the end of term, I will have met the School Council as part of pupil voice input. This would involve with the HT

to listening to pupil views about the school, and also to report back to Governors on any thoughts/ideas raised. I will also be reviewing pupil premium and reporting on progress and impact this has had on pupils involved. I will be providing a report on this at the next governors meeting. I will also be attending an assembly to make some presentations on leadership to our excellent pupil Apple ambassadors. I would also be present in support of the EYFS/Early Years school assembly and its wonderful musical production.

Governors are kept up to date with training and development opportunities within Herefordshire and beyond. E-training is also available on key topics. This is provided as a result of the gold membership we hold with the National Governance Association.

The DFE have informed the school that I have been confirmed in my continuing role as a National Leader of Governance (NLG) for 2019 to 2020. This is to provide NLG support and mentoring opportunities in Herefordshire for newly appointed Chair's of Governors, or to advise on governance issues.

Governors had a useful discussion on the role of PHSE and the proposed new curriculum. The HT gave an informed update on the proposals. Governors supported the arrangements/implementation for 2020.

Requests were being made from outside organisations for the use of the school buildings for regular meetings. With the site manager currently recuperating from an operation, and with ongoing projects at the school, governors decided that the focus should be on the school and its work and overall operation. Reluctantly all requests would be therefore have to be declined. Governors also felt that that this would ensure that the Village Hall could be signposted, in order to support its income generation opportunities.

All in all a very productive meeting. I am most grateful to the Clerk to the Governors for all the paperwork. Also I am hugely impressed with the quality of input from governors of the school, all of whom provide a very important 'critical friend' role.

Huge thanks to Louise George, Headteacher and 'Team Walford' for the excellent work undertaken in providing excellent care, support and education for all of the pupils at the school. This is much appreciated by parents, carers, pupils, governors and the local community.