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27th September 2021

Open letter from the Governors of Hiltingbury Junior School September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the announcement in the July Statement of Governance, whereby Judith Rutherford announced that she would be stepping down as Chair of Governors after already extending her term during the pandemic. The Full Governing Body met on 21st September and elected Richard Veal as the new Chair of Governors. The whole board expresses their sincere appreciation for the fantastic leadership given by Judith, in what has been an incredibly difficult time in the last few years.

We are also pleased last week to have had a visit from our new Leadership and Learning Partner from the local authority, Kila Barber. This was Kila's first time in our school and she was very pleased to see the plans that have been put in place since Miss Loosemore has taken on the Headship. The school has an in-depth 'School Improvement Plan' and actions in place to drive improvement in all aspects of the children's education. At the end of visit Kila fed back to governors and one key observation from the visit was that:

'The senior leadership team (SLT) is continuing to establish high expectations for staff with regards lesson planning and equity of provision within classes across each year group. A culture of distributed leadership is developing with continued professional development for middle leaders. Middle leaders are appreciative of the opportunity to upskill and are now involved in regular monitoring of their subject with the SLT.'

A key message I take from this is that despite the difficulties brought about through the Covid pandemic, it is demonstrable that all our children have progressed academically, socially and emotionally. The whole school staff have been instrumental in ensuring these vital aspects of our children's education and should be applauded.

This year the school has set 4 key areas of focus, with the children at the centre of each and reading as a focus:

Key Objective 1: The quality of education:

To provide better outcomes for children through developing effective learning journeys and accurate use of formative and summative assessment

Key Objective 2: Teaching, learning and assessment:

To ensure children feel safe, both on and offline and support them in the development of their behaviour and attitudes towards each other through the use of whole school community values

Key Objective 3: Personal development, behaviour and attitudes:

To implement an effective Personal Development curriculum which covers the statutory Relationships, Sex Education guidance to support the children in their wellbeing

Key Objective 4: Leadership and management (including Governors):

Target: To develop leadership at all levels to ensure leaders are effective in their monitoring and evaluation of their subjects to drive priorities in their leadership roles

Future plans for the Governing Body

At the same meeting our Local Authority governor also informed us of his intention to step down from the board as he starts his retirement out of the local area. We are subsequently looking into a replacement from the Local Authority. We also have a vacancy for a new parent governor.

How to contact us

We always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents and all other local stakeholders – Please contact the Chair of Governors, Richard Veal, via the school office.

Adminoffice@hiltingbury-jun.hants.sch.uk

Richard Veal, Chair of Governors on behalf of the Hiltingbury Junior School Governing Body

