

PENWORTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. C. Mitchell BEng, PGCE, NPQH
Headteacher
Tel: 01772 743321



CROOKINGS LANE
PENWORTHAM
PRESTON
PR1 0HU

5th July 2017

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2017

Welcome to our second annual report to parents: we have altered the timing a little this year, but still have plenty to tell you.

Full details of who we are and the jobs we do on the governing body are on the school website, along with photographs to help you put names to faces.

Last year's report introduced you to how the governing body works - this year we would like to tell you about the work of the main committees and how that fulfills our 3 core functions: setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction; holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school; and, overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent. As we said last year, we are not involved in the day-to-day running of the school: that is the job of the headteacher.

Our three main committees are Achievement and Curriculum, Behaviour, Safety and Premises Maintenance, and Finance, Resourcing and Staffing, although you will see from the website that we have more than just these three.

The Achievement and Curriculum Committee discussed the SATS results and national data early in the Autumn Term. Many strengths were highlighted, along with few relative areas to be responded to and monitored at other meetings during the year. We have listened to presentations from teachers about work being done on further developing Maths, Handwriting, Guided Reading and Wider Reading in school and look forward to hearing about the work being done on Science and E-Safety later this term. We have had regular updates about the joint curriculum project with Little Hoole: the collaborative planning and the increase in visits to a variety of places have clearly enriched our children's learning. The homework policy was reviewed and parental consultation resulted in a change to the number of tasks, the sheets being put on the website at the end of the previous half term, and an earlier start to the celebration with parents. This is only a flavour of the work of this committee which is very much concerned with what is happening in the classroom – the education that your children are receiving.

As you will have seen on a recent newsletter, the Behaviour, Safety and Premises Maintenance Committee was approached last year by some of our MPPPs who were hoping to introduce a school tracksuit. This initiative has been followed through and the children have been part of the process from start to finish. In addition to its formal meetings, this

committee undertakes regular focused tours of the premises. This year we returned to checking for Health and Safety concerns, but we have concentrated variously on prioritising areas for refurbishment and re-decoration, the exterior and grounds, electrical safety and so on. We receive regular reports on pupil behaviour and attendance and have discussed and accepted updated policies on health and safety, as well as reports on compliance checks. A major focus for us is safeguarding and discussion of the annual audit of policies, practice and procedures. We are pleased that this is a strength of the school and that we have been able to respond promptly to the recent inclusion of e-safety or on-line safeguarding under this umbrella. A new E-Safety Group, made up of teachers and governors, has been created: you will be hearing more from them in the near future, but they will be working towards accreditation with 360° Safe.

An important function of the Finance, Staffing and Resources Committee is to monitor school's spending under various budget headings. This is a standing item at every meeting. At our Spring Term meeting we discussed in detail the budget for 2017-2018, accepted it and recommend it for the approval of the Full Governing Body. The next phase of the School Development Plan can then be finalised, setting the focus of our meetings for next year. Over the past year there have been further major improvements to the school building. The most recent has been the work to create the extra exit from the Reception classroom to the outside learning area. Agreement for the project and the appropriate contractor was the work of this committee. One governor has been working with Mr Mitchell to develop a new Communications Strategy. This changed what we had originally planned for this year, but it will form part of the School Development Plan for next year and you will be seeing the results then. The very important task of appointing teachers to replace Mr Hall and Mr Strange is the focus of our attention at the moment.

Obviously, a major event for the governing body and the school as a whole this year was the Ofsted Inspection in November. While we were absolutely delighted with the report as a whole, as governors we were particularly pleased with the Inspector's feedback and report because it tells us and you that we are getting it right: the support we have offered to Mr Mitchell and the school has been instrumental in the desired transformation and identification of the next steps.

As a governing body we would again like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to Mr Mitchell and all the staff, teaching and non-teaching, for the passion, dedication, and professionalism they bring every day to the care and development of your children. We thank also the children for their continued good behaviour, high attendance and positive attitude to learning and all other aspects of school life, and we thank you as parents for your support and involvement.

This continues to be a wonderful school – our children are a joy, our teachers are dedicated and passionate, and you as parents have much to be proud of.

Pat Jones
Chair of Governors