



Governors Newsletter February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you on behalf of the Governing Body to wish you a Happy New Year and to update you with what has been happening in the Southway community since our last newsletter.

Thank You

Firstly, we would like to extend a huge thank you to Mr Newbold, the senior leadership team and every member of staff at Southway for continuing to navigate our school through these highly challenging times. Every day brings more complications to deal with and our staff are doing such a professional job of providing a high standard of education, safety and support to our children and families. The extra work needed to provide remote learning plus on-site learning for our children is enormous and all our staff have put everything into doing this. We are so proud of everyone involved and grateful that we have such skilled and caring staff at Southway.

Buildings And Premises

We know that most of you haven't been able to see the physical changes that have been made to Southway over the past year but we have invested heavily to make even more improvements to the school environment. Every classroom has new, purpose built, resources storage, sinks and reading areas. We have filled the reading areas with hundreds of new books for the children to lose themselves in. Our learning and resources centre has been fully renovated and is now full of fantastic resources and beautifully decorated, ready for our children to thrive in. You may have seen the smart new fencing and gates which have been put up in front of the school, providing an even more secure premises. Areas of our grounds have also been landscaped and are looking lovely. We have also been able to commission more murals and cardboard sculptures across the school, which everyone absolutely loves. All of these works go towards creating an exciting and calming learning environment for our children.

Curriculum and Activities

There are clearly enormous restrictions as to how our curriculum is delivered during these Covid times. Our staff are continuing to provide a high level of teaching for the key subjects across the year groups and are doing whatever they can to ensure that all the other subjects are covered too.

Before this current lockdown hit, many of the children were able to go on adventures. All of the year groups were able to spend time learning in the local woods [PHOTOS PLEASE!]. Year 6 had the use of a climbing wall for the day in December and received some very useful advice on Zoom about climbing from a famous international climber and explorer.

As governors, we are continually monitoring how the curriculum is shaped and taught to our children. We have skilled leaders and teaching staff providing this curriculum, with the assistance of our wonderful teaching assistants. Teaching via Zoom has its challenges but we are really happy as to how our staff are handling this. Thank you to everyone involved.

Learning and achieving together





Headteacher: Mr P Newbold

Staff

We have had a few changes of staff at Southway over the past year. Everyone has settled in really well. Our newly qualified teachers are receiving excellent support and guidance from Miss Bailey, their training mentor.

Governors

We are delighted that we have been joined by Miss Whitman, Isabel Carpenter, David Child and Ceri Williams on our Governing Body and look forward to many years of working with them. Miss Whitman took over as our Staff Governor last year. We would like to say thank you to Miss Mudford for the work that she did prior to Miss Whitman.



Support and Guidance

As a governing body, we have had a lot of extra work to do since Covid hit a year ago. We have provided continual support to Mr Newbold and the school community, albeit remotely. We have had many additional meetings throughout the year and our normal way of governing has had to be adapted greatly. We are so proud of our staff, our parents and carers and our incredible, resilient children. The way that everyone has rallied round to support each other, adapted to new ways of learning, different ways of behaving around the school and different ways of living has been really impressive. Thank you to you all for your constant support in our Southway community, it is much appreciated.

Stay safe, be kind and take care.

Kind regards,

Helen Lewis
Vice-Chair of Governors
on behalf of the Governing Body

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