



## Sutton Benger CE Primary School Governor Spotlight July 2018

### An end of Term update

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July, with the end of the 2017/18 school year fast approaching, the Sutton Benger School Governing Body held our final Full Governing Body meeting of the academic year.

The agenda included updates on the academisation process, the link Governor visit programme, feedback from the various subcommittees, the maths & English leaders and most importantly, we got to hear from the pupil voice teams, who gave us an fantastic review of everything they have been doing this year.

Here's a condensed version of the 3 hour meeting.

### Pupil Voice Update

The playground team have been busy this year making sure that the children have everything they need for fun-filled break times including skipping ropes, netballs and catchers.

As part of their work they've been on training courses to learn new methods to make games fair and reduce arguments and how to plan different activities (including a lesson from Dan the 'Skipping Man'). They've liaised with class reps from each year, ran a school assembly and written numerous letters successfully requesting donations of books, dressing up clothes, board games and various other outside games including skittles.

Always keen to develop things further, they've got lot of great ideas as to how they can improve school breaktimes so watch this space...

The Green team have also been hard at it making sure the school is doing its best to 'stay green' with regular electricity, recycling and water checks.

We learnt how they've been studying what's under our feet and making sure that our resident mini beasts and feathered friends have the best habitat in which to live, having signed up to various BTO <https://www.bto.org> initiatives.

Finally, we heard about the 'Waste Week' and 'Switch off Fortnight' initiatives and were tested on our recycling knowledge – Did you know a new car must be "85% recyclable"!

A big thank you to Mrs Pitts and Mrs Griffin for all your hard work with the teams and for accompanying the children at our recent meeting.

For more information, please contact Mrs Wilson.



## Sutton Benger CE Primary School Governor Spotlight July 2018

### Maths & English Subject Leaders Update

Mrs Magson and Mrs Scott, on behalf of Mrs Bucksey, shared how they'd been working alongside education advisors Chris Harries & Steve Riley to challenge and develop the way English and Maths are taught and marked in the school as well as increase the children's depth of reading (English) and fluency of calculations and recall (Maths).

Key impacts in English include methods to improve the profile of reading and mastery in writing as well as the trialling of 'No Nonsense' spelling. For maths, the focus has been working to increase levels of reasoning, fluency and problem solving amongst children including the introduction of the whole school 'Times Table Challenge'.

Both subjects have also been trialling Cold & Hot learning tasks as part of a wider initiative to clearly show progress from the beginning of a unit of learning to the end. They have also been working on providing more effective marking with immediate and specific feedback during lessons; an area all teaching staff have been trained in.

Overall, there has been lots of great work and collaboration by middle leaders, teachers and teaching assistants across the school.

### Committee Updates

**Ethos:** Ethos committee upholds the importance of the Christian ethos of our school and values our connection to the Church. We strive to ensure that the children are aware of health and safety issues which could affect their personal everyday lives, aiming to improve their understanding to keep them safe at all times. We want them to develop a greater awareness and understanding of current events and global issues in context and each class has for example a 'World News' board to facilitate this.

**Teaching & Learning:** The teaching and learning committee have looked at the end of year assessments for all children, in terms of both achievement and progress over the year. Mrs Kelsey has updated us on the support given to children with SEND and how this has impacted on their learning, and we have had similar discussions about the level of challenge for our more able pupils. As well as celebrating all the positives, areas for focus next year have been identified. In addition to looking at the core curriculum subjects we have discussed the many other opportunities the school has given our children to enhance the wider curriculum, from visits and visitors, to sporting events and end of year productions.

**Staffing:** The most recent work has been to review the Teaching Assistant training and development programme.



## Sutton Benger CE Primary School Governor Spotlight July 2018

**VfM (Value for Money):** In the context of the wider national picture of declining school budgets, and our strategic plan to grow the school to 7 financially sustainable classes, money is very tight at the school. The VfM committee has had to agree to an in-year deficit budget this year and will be working closely with Wiltshire Council on an action plan to reduce the deficit forecast for next year.

**Strategic Working Group:** Have an upcoming meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July where chairs of committees from Sutton Benger will meet with peers from Oaksey School. The meeting will look at how the two schools can work closer and more effectively together.

### SATS results

The unvalidated SATS results for KS2 are in and whilst we cannot report on progress, we are pleased to say that we have met our predicted targets in all subjects and have improved on the 2017 KS2 results in all areas bar one. We have also achieved the national average or above in reading; grammar, punctuation and spelling; and writing for KS2. Well done to all the staff for your hard work. More detailed information is to be communicated in due course.

### Link Governor Programme

School visits by link governors have been made across all subjects over the course of 2017/18 in particular for English, Maths and PSHE. The focus of term 1 2018/19 visits are DT & art, computing and early years.

### Academisation Update

Having entered into informal conversations with DBAT (Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust) we are still at an early stage of the process. A 'conversion working party' has been formed between members of the School governing body, the Headteacher and an external consultant working on behalf of DBAT. The next meeting will take place before the end of the summer term.

The school is preparing an application form for submission to the DFE to begin the formal consultation process. We are still at an early stage and there is as yet, no decision that the school will convert to academy status. A timeline outlining the formal consultation process will be produced at the start of the Autumn Term.

Currently risk assessments associated with academisation are being carried out across a range of different areas, the staff at Sutton Benger are planning to visit a number of existing DBAT schools. The Parish Council have agreed to support the process the school is currently undertaking and will contribute to the formal consultation programme in the Autumn Term, striving to secure the best interests of the children and school.



## Sutton Benger CE Primary School Governor Spotlight July 2018

Prior to any decision there will be further opportunities for parents and staff to discuss the process with the school governing body and DBAT.

### FOSBS Update

"2017/18 has been another successful year for FOSBS raising nearly £11,000, with an end of year surplus of just over £5,000. This is amazing, and FOSBS would like to thank all the parents, grandparents, teachers and staff, and other supporters that we have had during the year.

The key fundraising events continue to be the Christmas Fair, Safari Supper, and the extended Easter Fair and trail. In addition we have supplemented this fundraising income through smaller events, such as the discos, DVD nights, ice creams and cake sales. We have also been fortunate for donations from outside sources, namely the Beer and Sausage Festival, Church Piece, Pre-Loved clothing sale, Gin Tasting night and the Benger Blaze.

During this year, FOSBS have funded the end of year treat day on Friday 20th July, which we're hoping all the children really enjoyed. In addition to this, FOSBS has also paid for the Living Eggs, which were in school earlier in the spring term. As with prior years, we have funded the Wiltshire Schools Learning Resources at around £2,500, which allows classes to access topic specific resources, to really enhance the children's learning.

Going forward, FOSBS are hoping to further enhance the children's learning through supporting activities throughout the school year and we are currently looking at financial and capital commitments, so that we are able to start making plans for this.

If you do wish to find out more about FOSBS, please do not hesitate to contact us:  
[FOSBS@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:FOSBS@suttonbenger.wilts.sch.uk)

### **Finally, a word on communications...**

We are currently working on a strategy to increase awareness of Sutton Benger School and the great work that goes on here within the local community. The first part of this process is aimed at enhancing the communication between the school and parents.

You will have recently received a survey. Please take your time to complete this as your input is valuable in how we communicate to you. All feedback is welcomed and will be considered. If you have not received the survey, please contact the school office to update your email address with us.



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For more information about what the governors at Sutton Benger Primary School do, to find meeting agendas and minutes, and to explore who the Governors are please visit the school website: [www.suttonbenger.org](http://www.suttonbenger.org)

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