



A Message from our Chair of Governors

The final item on the Agenda at every meeting of the Governing Body is "What have we discussed today that has had a direct impact on the children's education?" I thought parents would like to know what we Governors do at these meetings, so I just wanted to give you a list of what we discussed last time.

- Funding
- Staffing
- Premises
- Safeguarding
- Budget
- School Development Plan
- Broad and balanced curriculum
- General Data Protection Regulations
- Admissions to secondary schools
- Before and after school care
- Assessment
- Pupil Premium
- English as an additional language
- Pastoral care
- Special educational needs

We always have policies to update and approve at meetings and Governors regularly report on any training they have undertaken. For example, this year I have attended:

- The role of the Special Educational Needs Governor
- Safer Recruitment
- Inclusion Summit
- The regular RBWM Leadership Forum (with an update on the latest changes to Ofsted from an HMI)

It probably doesn't sound much fun, but we are a very committed to all aspects of your children's education and the Governors are responsible for all of these things.

The bit that is fun is when we spend time in school, getting involved in the children's working day. We see them at work in many areas of the curriculum, admire their art work, attend assemblies and performances and we even get to see what they have to do in their SATs.

It is even more fun when we get asked to accompany them on school trips. The highlight for me this year was going to the Victoria and Albert Museum with Year 2, discovering lots about the Victorians and doing a very interesting quiz in the Gold and Silver Gallery, where the children really enjoyed seeing some of the magnificent things in there. Well worth a visit.

I am very pleased to tell you that we are always so proud of the children's behaviour when we are out with them. It certainly says something when the driver of the coach tells you he really likes transporting Oldfield children because they are always so polite and friendly.

Vivien Williams, Chair of Governors

Being a New Parent Governor

Within a week of becoming a new parent governor in November I attended my first **Full Governing Body meeting**. What struck me most as we did 'round the table' introductions, was the vast experience within the room that Oldfield's Governing Body has. This confirmed what I already thought, that our children are in very safe hands at Oldfield. What also struck me was the amount of paperwork and reading required in advance of governors meeting!

The following week, I then had my first governors sub-committee meeting, having been assigned to the **Learning, Families, Community & Healthy Schools committee**, where we discussed items such as Caterlink, ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant), Wise Owls & Early Risers. It seems that there are always policies to be read and approved at meetings, but thankfully meetings are run efficiently and do finish promptly.

After being thrown in at the deep end with the meetings, I then felt very privileged to be invited to join the children for their **Christmas lunch**, and what a lovely occasion that was. All the children at Oldfield are so polite and friendly, and despite my son wanting to eat as quickly as possible and get away from me to go out and play football, some of his friends were happy to stay a little longer and chat. I was also pleasantly surprised by the food....things have definitely improved since I was at school!

During February/March I attended three evening **training sessions** run by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead as part of their New Governor Induction. The key themes of these training sessions were.....

1. Governor's role as a strategic partner to the school
2. Governor's providing the right balance between support and challenge
3. Governor's being accountable for school improvement to improve the outcomes of all pupils.

I have since been involved in a number of **projects** with the school, including the Website redesign, Secondary School allocation and the Annual Parent Survey.

Amy Hewitt, Parent Governor

Our Clerk of Governors

As well as working in the school office, I am also Clerk to the Governing Body of Oldfield Primary School. It is my responsibility to help the Headteacher and Chair of Governors to set the agenda, circulate papers for meetings in advance, maintain a register of members and their pecuniary interests, take minutes and provide advice and guidance. I have also completed the National Clerks' Development Programme, through the NCTL (National College for Teaching and Leadership).

The main Governing Body meets 6 times a year, and committees within meet regularly. The Governing Body receives support from the Local Authority by offering regular Senior Leadership Team and Clerk briefings at the beginning of the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms. They produce an on-line resource for governors to access with up-to-date information on what is happening in the world of education and any changes/updates that need to be implemented. At the briefings, the Governor Services Team go through any updates and 'need to know' information which is passed on to the Governing Body members and school staff where appropriate. They run training courses for both new and existing governors, such as Safeguarding, Understanding Data along with new governor induction sessions. As new legislation comes into force and policy updates, they will also put on relevant training to cover these areas. The Governor Services Team are always on hand for support and advice.

All our governors are volunteers, and I would like to thank them for giving up their time and for their hard work in helping Oldfield achieve its goals.

Judy Bull, Clerk of Governors

Secondary School Allocation

We have been busy putting a case together regarding the predictable disadvantage that Oldfield children face in terms of secondary school allocation, and following:

1. An article in the Maidenhead Advertiser about Oldfield children being disadvantaged regarding secondary schools;
2. A meeting with Kevin McDaniel Director of Children’s Services at the RBWM to discuss the issues;
3. A question raised at the council meeting to Councillor Natasha Airey, Lead Member for Children’s Services;
4. A meeting with Louise Ceska, the Headteacher at Newlands;
5. Parent letters to Newlands Headteacher and Councillors (ably managed by Wendy Bullock, thank you!); and
6. Meetings with Holyport representatives, who face very similar issues, to share information

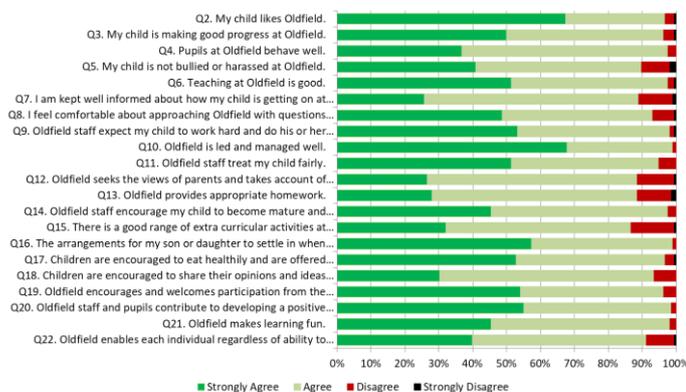
.....we were advised to put in an objection to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, a government body that works with the Department for Education to help clarify the legal position on admissions policies in schools, and we are currently awaiting the outcome of that.

Furthermore Kevin McDaniel arranged a workshop with the headteachers of the Maidenhead secondary schools in May to consider the issues and look at possible alternative arrangements. Unfortunately it was concluded that any changes that could be made to address this disadvantage for Oldfield children, would only result in another group of children being disadvantaged. The summary from that session was “The group is mindful that the Office of the Schools Adjudicator is currently considering a complaint regarding access to preferred schools for families in the south east of Maidenhead and unanimously decided that the Adjudicator’s decision and any guidance contained in that decision would be used to determine any immediate next steps.”

Sarah Green & Amy Hewitt, Parent Governors

Annual Parent Survey Results

218 completed questionnaires, so that potentially represents the view of parents of over half the children at Oldfield, evenly spread across all year groups. What a fantastic response.....thank you! Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with very little disagreement. Look at the graph below, which shows the significant majority of agreement in green compared to disagreement in red/black.



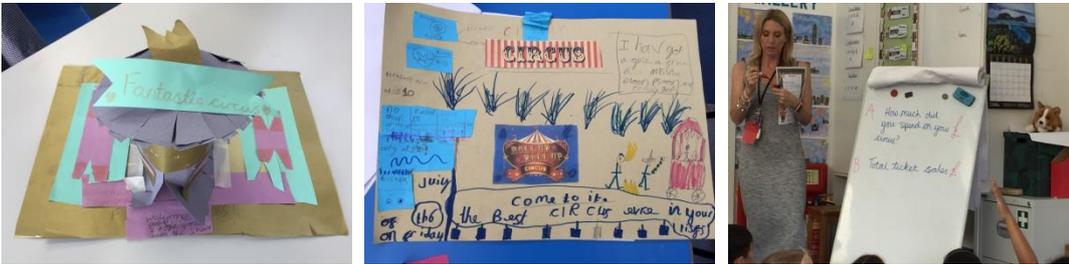
Particular areas of strength at Oldfield as perceived by parents are strong leadership, solid teaching, good behaviour and safe environment. We have identified a number of areas which we will be investigating further with a view to looking at whether we can make improvements, including extra-curricular activities, seeking views from parents, keeping parents informed, not bullied/harassed and appropriate homework.

Sarah Green & Amy Hewitt, Parent Governors

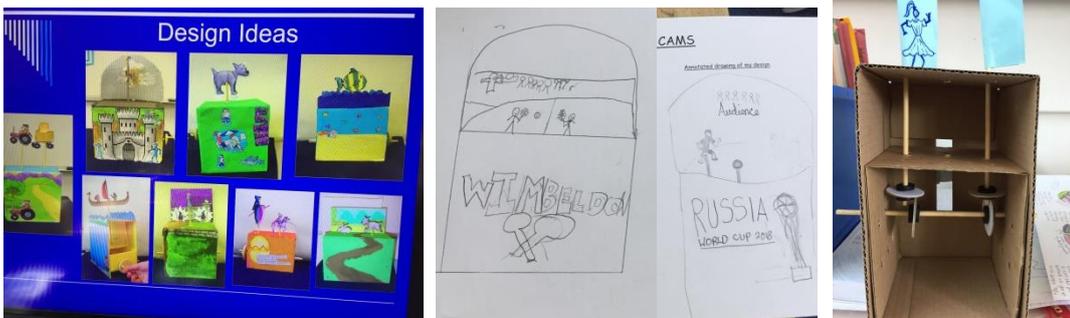
Governors in School Day

Friday 6th July was Governors in School Day with a focus on Writing, Growth Mindset & SEN.

I visited Miss Kent's year 2 class first, where they were finishing off a 'Circus' project they had been working on all week. The lesson was a fantastic example of learning through play, developing budding marketeers or possibly Alan Sugar's future apprentice! Working in pairs having decided how much to spend on their tent & entertainment, 'built' their circus & created sales posters, the children were then given tokens and allowed to look around the other circus' and decide which ones they wanted to buy tickets for and visit. The children were then taught the equation to calculate profit, so they could work out how successful their own circus had been.



I then spent time with Mrs Kilgour's year 5 class where they were learning about "cams" which is a rotating or sliding piece that changes rotary movement into linear motion (I had to ask what it was!). So having sketched their designs and sawed dowels to the correct lengths, the children were doing an amazing job of actually building their models. Patience was definitely required as the process was very fiddly, but Mrs Kilgour showed the children her Blue Peter "here's one I made earlier" example and talked through the process carefully, getting the children to think through in advance what could go wrong, and then encouraged those who had finished early to help those who were still working. Rather stereotypically, the boys' designs were football/tennis/cricket and the girls were unicorns/dolphins!



At lunch we were treated to the most amazing musical recital from Oliver Wynne Evans, who at the end of his third piece got a standing ovation from the audience....truly talented pianist! We also heard a beautiful duet from the piano & violin teachers.



My final stop of the day was to Miss Goodson's Early Years class where the children were practising some really beautiful writing, with relaxing music playing in the background, and useful reminders to sit on their chair properly, put their pencils back in the pot & to tuck their chairs in when they had finished. I was really impressed with the learnings that Miss Goodson has brought with her down to Early Years from her year 1 teaching experience, putting all those children moving up into year 1 in September in a much stronger starting point.



Amy Hewitt, Parent Governor