



ACE ... In Touch

Newsletter from the Governors

October 2022

Message from the Chair of Governors...

The summer holidays seem a distant memory as we reach the half term break. The start of the school year is always a busy time and this year has certainly been no exception. We started the term full of excitement as we began our partnership with Littleton C of E Infant School and welcomed Mrs Barton as our Executive Headteacher. Just a few days later we were all saddened by the news of the death of Her Majesty The Queen. It was particularly moving to read the prayers the children wrote for their class prayer books as they reflected on her life of service during the period of National Mourning.

Governors were pleased to be able to get back into school last year for visits and meetings, and have already been continuing this term, with plans for many more throughout the year. It's always encouraging to see the good work going on around the school and to hear from staff and pupils on our visits.

Thank you to the parents who took the time to engage with our parent survey during the Parent Consultation meetings, we will be reviewing the results and feedback over the coming weeks.

Since the start of the term governors have continued to be proactive in supporting school improvement. At our most recent governors meeting we heard from Miss Pooley (Maths lead) about the plans to build on and develop our children's Maths skills and knowledge. We have also been engaging with subject leaders, updating our Safeguarding training, meeting with the new leadership team and external support partners, amongst many other things. We've been encouraged hearing the plans Mrs Barton and the leadership team have for the coming year, and are already working well together to drive improvement to enable everyone to "be the best that we can be".

Phil Wells, Chair of Governors

Reception Admissions 2023

Applications for places in our Reception classes in September 2023 open on Monday 31 October 2022.

Our grateful thanks go to the staff, and pupils, who gave up their Saturday morning to hold our recent Open Morning. We are also running day time tours over the coming months so if you know any parents who are looking for a school for their children do encourage them to come and visit our school.

Further details about admissions can be found on our website.



Governors Competitions

Governors competitions are an initiative to continue your children's learning and development during holiday periods, and to help refresh and recap on the learning they have done throughout the year. Children on average lose a staggering 40% of their learning during the 6 week summer holiday, which impacts hugely on their return to school after the break.

Governors at ACE believe that completing writing and maths tasks during times of absence from school helps to retain key skills that are sometimes lost. We all deserve a break, including our children, but a 'little and often' approach to recapping on their learning will have a positive impact on their return to school. So, when you see our competitions advertised in HIGHLIGHTS, or your child comes home with information about it, please do support them in giving them a go. They always have a fun theme and children are rewarded for their efforts with special class treats as a way of us saying well done and thank you.

Attendance

We understand that the last couple of years have brought additional challenges with covid and other illnesses and would like to thank parents for their support in ensuring children are in school every day. Our attendance so far this term is **93.8%** we will be continuing to focus on improving this throughout the year. When making plans for days out and family holidays please remember that the school cannot grant any leave of absence during term time and penalty notices may be used by the Local Authority, please refer to our Attendance Policy for further details. There are 175 non school days each year for holidays and visits.

Regular attendance throughout their school years is important for your child's education and future prospects, evidence shows that poor attendance impacts on children's GCSE results. 90% attendance is 1 day missed every 2 weeks. 90% over a school year is 4 weeks (20 days) missed. 90% throughout their 7 years at Primary school is 28 weeks (140 days) or more than 2 whole terms missed!

365 DAYS IN EACH YEAR	175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR		→	175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments		
	190 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR <small>190 days for your child's education</small>	10 days absence	20 days absence	29 days absence = Half a term missed	38 days absence	47 days absence = over two months missed!
	180 DAYS OF SCHOOL		170 DAYS OF SCHOOL	161 DAYS OF SCHOOL	152 DAYS OF SCHOOL	143 DAYS OF SCHOOL
	100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
	GOOD		CAUSE FOR CONCERN		SERIOUS CONCERN	

Thank You PTA

A very big **thank you** to the PTA. Throughout the covid restrictions many of their usual fundraising activities weren't possible but they rose to the challenge and found different ways to fundraise and continued to support the school. It was lovely to finally be able to see the school open again to the community for this years summer fayre, which was a resounding success.

ACE Governing Body

We were pleased to welcome 2 new governors to our team last term. With changes to the makeup of the governing body over the last year or two we thought it would be useful to give you a summary of who's who.

We are confident that each member brings their own unique set of skills, based on their experience and profession. This allows us to provide a well-rounded governing body committed to providing a clear, strategic vision for the school.

Governor	Role
Phil Wells	Chair of Governors Foundation Deanery Governor
Louise Bowman	Vice Chair of Governors Parent Governor
Mrs Barton	Ex-Officio - Executive Headteacher
Sukhi Vella	Local Authority Governor
Clare Marland	Foundation Governor for St Hildas
Donna Hester	Foundation Governor for St Hildas
Jenny Wilsher	Foundation LDBS Governor
Paul Hughes	Foundation LDBS Governor
Matt Bough	Parent Governor
Chris Owen	Parent Governor
Mrs Williams	Staff Governor
Fr Stuart King	Ex-Officio – Parish Priest St Matthews
Vacancy	Foundation Governor for St Matthews
Vacancy	Foundation Governor for St Matthews
Miss Beacham	Associate Governor (Head to School)
Mrs Bailey	Associate Governor (Acting Head of School)

I can do all things through Christ
who gives me strength.
Philippians 4v13



Further details about all our Governors can be found on the school's website
www.ashford-primary.surrey.sch.uk/about/governors-info.php