Governor newsletter 16th November 2015

What an incredible term. So many learning opportunities; residential visits, Gangster Granny and London's burning to mention a few. As governors it's been a very busy time and in many ways it feels as though we've done a year’s work in one term!

They say changing jobs and moving house are some of the most stressful things you can do. As school governors, recruiting a new head teacher and an Ofsted inspection are right up there too and we've been through both this term! The outcome of the one day Ofsted inspection is awaited; we will share with you the findings of the report as soon as we have them.

The board was delighted with the successful outcome of the head teacher interviews and are looking forward to working with Mrs Kenny in the New Year. Governors have been working with the school leadership on many other matters and the following is a flavour:

* Last year’s highly successful SATS results have been reviewed and trends looked at. Progress data from across the school also reviewed and priorities for development identified.
* Policies such as Child protection, Pay and Staff appraisal reviewed and impact monitored.
* School finances and budgets monitored to ensure best value and provision for pupils.
* Priorities for building maintenance and improvements identified.
* Discussions ongoing about the Christian distinctiveness of the school with the aim of greater links with the Church and developments in ethos and values.
* Involvement and collaboration with other Haywards Heath locality schools to provide joint services for special needs, gifted and talented activities and sports provision.

Recently we held a recruitment drive to find a new Parent governor. Thank you to the school council for their help with promoting the roles. A good response meant we have asked two parents to join the board. Matt Greenwood will be the new parent governor with Emily Turtle, who was also nominated, joining the board as a Co-opted governor. We welcome both to the team.

We wouldn't have such a successful, vibrant learning community without highly talented and dedicated staff. As governors we feel fortunate to have a tremendous staff team at Bolney from Zoe in the office to Carol our premises manager and EVERYONE in between! We hope you join with us in thanking them for all their efforts in making the last term a huge success.

We wish to thank Mrs Susan Costa from All Saints School in Horsham who has been consulting and supporting the staff throughout this term. Mrs Costa has been a great help and links with All Saints school have been formed which we hope to build on in the future.

Someone who exemplifies all the above is Mrs Sarah Harvey our Acting Headteacher. Mrs Harvey has steered the school through this term with great skill and professionalism. Taking the strong position left by Mr McArthur she has injected renewed energy and purpose into the school, driving forward to challenge and improve everything that the school does. The governors are extremely grateful to Mrs Harvey for her outstanding work, we ask you to join with us in thanking Mrs Harvey and her family for their commitment to the school over the last term.

We very much look forward to what the future will bring and wish you all a peaceful and safe break.

Happy Christmas!

Peter Sutton.

Chair of Governors.