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Dear Parents,

As always it has been a busy term so far and with lots more to happen, I'm sure. Thank you to all the staff and parents for all the time and effort you put into the different activities. It is due to your commitment that our schools are fun, exciting and happy places for our children.

Last week, the Governing Body had their termly meeting to ensure that the school is running effectively and all children are progressing well educationally. In the interest of transparency, the Governing Body keeps you updated on items discussed at our full Governing Body meetings throughout each academic year. The minutes from each meeting are held in the school office, once they have been approved, and if any parent would like to look at these in detail please ask Mr. Tinker.

The following list is a summary of the points discussed during our recent Spring Term meeting:

1. After considering the report on feedback received during the consultation period, it was formally decided, by a unanimous vote of both Wistanstow and The Edge Schools' Federation Governors, that we will expand The Federation to include Wistanstow, as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Feedback from all stakeholders had been generally very positive. The instrument of Government has been tweaked slightly to include all parishes covered by The Federation and we are now awaiting the Diocese approval.
2. Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and any action/impact points were discussed:
  - Catherine Cowper is the mental health first aider for The Federation. Her role is to help ensure the mental wellbeing of staff and pupils. Peter Cox is the link governor for staff wellbeing.
  - Simon Gray and Chris Jesshope have been into schools and examined the safeguarding policies and register, reviewed staff wellbeing, behavior, bullying, diversity, school visit procedures and health and safety checks. They found that all policies and procedures were being followed meticulously. Pupil and staff behavior were exemplary leading to a happy and safe environment in The Federation.
3. Steve Hall reported on the Finance Committee outlining:
  - As a result of Government funding increasing, The Federation is now in a more secure position than previously. However, numbers on roll continues to be imperative and is the key to our future.
4. Dave Tinker reported on the Curriculum Committee:
  - Data on children's attainment to date was reviewed. The figures for Expected Attainment were good. Greater Depth scores were particularly pleasing for Church Preen. Questions were asked regarding any lower scores and satisfactory answers were given to explain any anomalies and information on how support etc, was being given.
  - Governors meet with some very confident and enthusiastic children from KS2 in Church Preen and spoke to them broadly around their general experience at school, what they like and dislike, what they are good at and





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not so good at, what the school does well and doesn't do well. They liked their Experience Days (Homelessness being the most recent topic) and the children were very eloquent in describing how this made them feel and reflect upon the situations of people less fortunate than themselves. It is fair to say that the Governors were impressed (but not surprised) by the extent to which the children were fully engaged in school, found it a very positive experience and understood its importance. They were even able to explain the role of the School Governor.

5. Dave Tinker gave the Head Teacher's Report to the Governors detailing progress within school and updating Governors on whole school issues:
  - The current School Improvement Plan was discussed and progress towards objectives is good.
    - Behaviour and attitudes are exceptional
    - Pupils make a highly positive contribution to the life of the school and wider community
    - School council are fully engaged in school life
    - A new Relationship and Sex Education scheme of work is being investigated
    - Attendance exceeds national mean at both schools and LA targets (over time).
    - A breath of enrichment experiences are planned for to support the curriculum and strengthen the school offer
    - There have been no exclusions, incidents of bullying or racist incidents reported.
    - Safeguarding is effective.
    - Progress rates improving in all subjects over time - informed by tracking data, pupil work scrutinies and lesson observation.
    - Leadership is highly focused on quality education
  
6. Reports by Dave Tinker on performance management and safe guarding were shared and discussed.
  
7. A report written by the subcommittee on the findings from the school dinner questionnaires was shared. Overall a large majority of children enjoy their lunches, at least sometimes, with several comments praising the lunches..."yummy" and "amazing". The most significant reason for children not having school meals, or having meals infrequently, was that they prefer a sandwich or packed lunch. We are hoping after introducing a sandwich option at Brockton next term they may be an increase in numbers. The response rate from parents was very low therefore making it difficult to know the significant of responses. Should you wish to view the full report please ask the school office for a copy.

The above is a brief overview of what was discussed in the full Governing Body meeting. We hope this is of interest to you and gives you an insight into what goes on behind the scenes at The Edge Schools' Federation.

*A. Byrne*

Many thanks

Amber Byrne

Chair of Governors

