

Deer Park Governor update – Summer 2017



Deer Park
School
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Governors would like to express their huge thanks to all of the dedicated staff at Deer Park for another successful year in our journey to create an outstanding school and also to the Friends of Deer Park for another fabulous year of fundraising. We of course wouldn't be here without our fantastic parents and children so well done everyone! It's all about team work and what a team we are!

Hello and welcome to our end of year round up from the Governors of Deer Park School. It has been another busy year at school and we have lots to fit into this summer newsletter.

Recently we've been asked a few questions about what we do and who we are and so on the next page you'll find our mugshots (please always say hello if you see us in school) and an overview of the particular area of interest that we look after. Broadly our role as Governors of Deer Park School is to provide focussed local governance. We monitor the key performance indicators within the school development plan and act as a critical friend to Mrs Colenso and her leadership team, providing challenge where appropriate. We have a delegated scheme of responsibility given to us by Bellevue Place Education Trust (BPET) and through this we support the leadership team of Deer Park to make appropriate decisions as well as to support the overall strategic direction of the school.

As part of these responsibilities we have held several governing body meetings throughout the year, the minutes of which are put together by our brilliant clerk, Beryl Hawkins and are available on the school website. Our work also extends outside of the main governing body meetings. Our Performance and Curriculum Committee meets twice a year and focuses on Teaching and Learning at Deer Park as well as areas such as Safeguarding provision. Our Resources Committee reviewed and approved the 2017-18 budget and worked with the school team to ensure that the budget can support the school's staffing strategy. In addition we have also each taken a responsibility for a specific area of the school, mentioned in italics below, so please if you have any questions do feel free to contact us individually and we'll do our best to help and/or answer any of your questions.

Our thanks to those of you who completed the recent parent survey from BPET. Parent surveys are a key way for us to understand the needs and concerns of our school community so thank you to everyone who completed this, we will be reviewing any actions in the Autumn term.

I think you'll all agree that it has been a tremendous year and we are incredibly proud of the school's achievements. Thank you for your continued support, participation and passion and our very best wishes for a wonderful summer break. We look forward to seeing you in September where we will be making our new Reception children and their families very welcome.

Local Governing Body Members

<p>Claire Delaney</p>  <p>Chair and Trust Rep <i>Safeguarding</i></p>	<p>James Boyle</p>  <p>Parent Governor and Vice-Chair <i>Performance and Curriculum</i></p>	<p>Graham Dearman</p>  <p>Community Governor <i>Health & Safety</i></p>
<p>Henry Giles</p>  <p>Community Governor <i>Finance and Resources</i></p>	<p>Chris Gallant</p>  <p>Parent Governor <i>Data and New Building</i></p>	<p>Nick Hodgess</p>  <p>Community Governor <i>SEN and Inclusion</i></p>
<p>Heather McKissack</p>  <p>Community Governor <i>Pupil Premium Grant</i></p>	<p>Alison Colenso</p>  <p>Headteacher</p>	<p>Frances Bracegirdle</p>  <p>Staff Governor</p>

The clerk to the LGB is Beryl Hawkins.





The Trust's Academic results Vs the National Average – Highlighting Deer Park's INCREDIBLE results

We know it's not just all about Academic achievement, in fact, it's through living and breathing our values that we will develop Deer Park children into being well rounded citizens of the future. However, there are some key benchmarks that the Government set out for us, that subsequently the Trust then challenge all of its schools to better and a quick snapshot of these results is below:

Across the Trust, **81%** of our pupils achieved a, what is defined by Government, as a Good Level of Development in Reception (The 2016 national average was 66%) and **88%** of pupils passed the phonics screening in Year 1 (2016 national average of 81%).

Three of the Trust's schools also had Year 2 pupils take the SATs test this year. On average, **88%** passed in maths (against a national average of 75%), **88%** passed in Reading (against a national average of 71%) and **81%** passed the writing test (against a national average of 76%).

We are delighted to announce that in Deer Park 83% of children achieved a Good Level of Development in Reception this year and an astounding 95% of our pupils passed the phonics screening in Year 1. Richmond Borough's averages last year were 79% for the GLD and 89% for the phonics screening respectively.

Maths

As we are always striving to get better and further develop the learning experience all the children have at Deer Park School the staff had a focus on maths this year. The aim was to increase the number of children who were working at 'better than expected' for their age and ensure all children had an improved, deeper understanding of maths. With the new curriculum this is not done by moving on quicker and learning more and more skills but by deepening understanding of each concept and the children achieving a 'mastery' level of understanding.

Nick Hodgess visited the school on several occasions to see how the staff were achieving this goal. He was involved in looking at the books of children of different abilities and seeing how their understanding was being developed and deepened. He also visited during 'Maths' Day' and joined in the different activities that were taking place. It was a day of immersion in maths through art, PE, time capsules to mention a few and Nick heard lots of positive comments, for example, 'maths is so much fun!'

Phonics

The decision was made to use 'Letters and Sounds' to teach phonics this year backed up by the 'Read, Write, Inc' books for reading. The idea being that it is good to use more than one tool for teaching any area of the curriculum because then you can pick the best bits of both. Phonics at Deer Park is taught daily and a very consistent approach is taken. The results of the Year 1 Phonics Screen Check (a statutory national test) were 95% of the class passing which is testament to the outstanding teaching of phonics at Deer Park.

James Boyle visited the school to meet with Frances Bracegirdle to find out about how phonics is taught at Deer Park School and during his visit he spent some time watching both a group session and a whole class session which were taking place alongside each other in Year 1.

Priorities for Governors in the forthcoming Academic Year

In addition to ensuring that we are Ofsted-ready Governors have prioritised two key areas of focus for the forthcoming academic year. In conjunction with Mrs Colenso we agreed that they were broad enough to provide flexibility but focussed enough for us to ensure that prioritisation is applied appropriately and for us to be able to regularly monitor through visits, updates and the leadership report.

The first priority area is **ENVIRONMENT** which covers the following:

- Logistics of temporary site expansion
- Handwriting
- Books – marking and presentation of books
- Classroom environment – displays, organisation
- Music provision
- Clubs provision

The second area of focus will be **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

- Progress of all groups in maths
- Data challenge from Governors
- Mentoring of NQT
- Developing Year 2 curriculum
- Fine tuning Year 1 curriculum
- Maximising % of children working at greater depth in reading, writing and maths



Building update

The new Year 2 classroom will be ready in time for September. The contractor has been appointed and is ready to start on the current dance studio on a four week programme.

2018 – We are waiting on confirmation from the Education and Skills Funding Agency that we will use part of the Old Deer Park car park for our temporary classrooms for September 2018 for which Richmond Local Authority hold the freehold. Negotiations on this are due to start shortly and we hope to have more information and a red line drawing which we can share with you in the not too distant future. We are hoping still to move the school to a two form entry from September 2018.

The permanent site – Lidl and Richmond Local Authority are continuing to finalise the post planning permission conditions around the highways arrangements for the new store and we will update you as soon as we have further information. We continue to keep the pressure up and Lidl have assured us that once the demolition work is given the green light to start, they will be able to move very swiftly and have lots of experience of doing this.

