



## ***Foxhills Federation Board of Governors***

### ***Letter to parents January 2023***

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Board of Governors I would like to wish all parents and children a happy and healthy New Year! We are pleased with our first full term as Foxhills Federation, recognising the opportunities the federation offers, and using them to benefit staff and children. We would like to thank all staff at both schools for their hard work and determination to ensure the best outcomes for children in the federation.

#### **Governors' actions during the Autumn Term 2022**

Governors were relieved that, having completed the federation process, they could move forward to work with both schools on strategic and financial matters, safeguarding, and aspects of children's learning. To enable the Board to do this effectively the appropriate committees and individual responsibilities were agreed in our September meeting, and a list of committees and responsibilities will be found in the Governors' section of the schools' websites <https://www.foxhills-jun.hants.sch.uk/governors> <https://www.foxhills-inf.hants.sch.uk/governors> These sections have been revised to include information about the board, including minutes of meetings.

#### **Membership of the Board of Governors**

Unfortunately, Nick Hatfield, one of the two elected parent governors on the board, had to resign due to work commitments. Mrs Angela Ifould was elected unopposed to fill this vacancy. She has a particular interest in Special Educational Needs, and we welcome her to the board and hope she will enjoy her time with us.

#### **Meetings during the Autumn Term**

It's been a busy term with two meetings for the whole Board of Governors, plus committee meetings for Children's Learning, Safeguarding, Finance and Resources, Teachers' Pay, and the Headteacher's Performance Review. The budget for each school is reviewed twice termly by two governors who work with the Finance Managers, in accordance with the requirements of the Schools' Financial Values Standards defined by the Department of Education. As has been reported in the media, school budgets are under huge pressure, due to increased energy costs, and staff pay rises which have not (to date) been supported by central government.

Governors with safeguarding responsibilities interviewed randomly selected staff from both schools to check that, through appropriate and timely training, they recognised safeguarding issues, and how to respond to them. Their knowledge was very impressive! They were clearly caring and meticulous in this particularly important aspect of their duties in Foxhills.

#### **Governor training**

Our planned training on 'Understanding the Primary Curriculum', due to take place in November, was once again postponed for reasons outside our control., This was disappointing, however we remain optimistic

that, at the third time of arranging this important session, nothing will intervene to prevent it happening in January! The session will be led by our Leadership and Learning Partner (an HCC Adviser in Education) and by Mrs. Howe, who will provide insight into the curriculum at Foxhills.

Governors continue to take advantage of the training offered by Hants Governor Services. This is now a mix of Face-to-Face and virtual sessions. Virtual sessions are welcome – they make attendance much easier than travelling to a central venue, which may be twenty miles away, but the interaction with other governors which was such an important aspect of Face-to-Face, is much missed.

### **Foxy Fireworks**

Governors supported and helped in this Friends of Foxhills event. It was a huge success, with the wet and windy weather giving us a break for the duration of the event. We would like to congratulate the Friends of Foxhills for their impressive organisation, which resulted in an enjoyable and safe event for everyone, as well as raising funds for the schools. A big thank you to all!

**And so, after a much-needed break, we are all looking forward to an exciting new term!**

With best wishes,

Ann Arscott

Chair of Governors, for Foxhills Federation Board of Governors.

Email: [Governors@foxhillsfederation.co.uk](mailto:Governors@foxhillsfederation.co.uk)