



# Lawn Primary & Nursery School

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**23 January 2023**

## **Newsletter from the Governors**

### **Introduction**

It has been great to see the school get fully back to normal in a post-Covid world, with a range of school trips and performances taking place during the Autumn term. The staff have worked extremely hard to provide a broad curriculum and range of experiences for all children. This will continue and we are excited to see the future use of the new forest school area, which will really help to provide the children to experience activities that otherwise wouldn't have been possible. We are especially grateful for all the hard work from the team at SAS Rope and Rail, without whom, this would not have been possible.

### **Governing Board update**

We are pleased that Russell Hall and Emma Rollings have recently joined the Board as parent governors. They both bring with them a range of experience that will help to ensure that as a Board we are able to support the school to provide the best education and experience for the children. As a Board, we also currently have some co-opted governor vacancies. These are roles that are appointed by the Board and can be filled by anyone – including people that have no direct relationship with the school. If you know anyone that may be interested in joining the Board, please let us know.

### **Finance**

School finances, as with public finances in general, continue to be under significant pressure. Whilst there has been some increase in funding in recent years, there have also been significant increases in costs in the form of higher salaries and non-staffing costs such as energy bills. The school have worked hard to ensure that we remain within budget for the current financial year. The outlook beyond this year remains very uncertain given the wider central government situation as well as other factors such as inflation. We are pleased that despite the cost pressures, the school has been able to invest in areas such as reading through the implementation of the Read, Write, Inc. scheme, which will provide a lasting benefit to the children.

### **Friends of Lawn**

Thank you for the magnificent efforts of the Friends of Lawn Committee and volunteers, who have successfully re-started their regular events post covid. The Summer Fayre was a fantastic event in July which saw over 350 children and their families enjoying the games and activities on the field. This has been followed up in the autumn term with a disco for key stage 2 and the very successful Christmas Fayre. Volunteers have also supported the nativities put on by key stage 1, selling refreshments and running a raffle at each performance. The hard work of the small and dedicated Committee is recognised and the funds that they raise are greatly appreciated by the school. The Committee continue to work closely with the school staff to agree events, what the funds raised are used for and how they can help the school community, for example with second hand uniform sales. The Governors will continue to support the Friends of Lawn in their fundraising activities this year and in the future.



## **SEND**

Lawn Primary and Nursery School will publish our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Annual Report for Parents in January 2023. The Report provides information about the implementation of our policy for pupils with SEND and is available on our new website, where you can also find information on the Swindon Local Offer, as well as our updated policies on SEND & Inclusion and Equality Scheme & Accessibility Plan.

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive and supportive school that ensures all children have a curriculum and school experience that is relevant to their needs. Our special educational needs and disabilities co-ordinator (SENDCo) is Mr Berry, who joined us in September. He is a qualified teacher and SENDCo. He is part of the Senior Leadership Team and works closely alongside them to oversee the provision and monitoring of children's learning and progress throughout the school and to support the families of those children with special educational needs.

In meeting our legal duty as a Governing Board, we have a SEND Governor (Mr Smith) who is our champion for children and young people with SEND and those with inclusion needs. He will support and challenge the school to ensure that no child or young person is treated less favourably, denied opportunity, or left behind because they have additional needs. To achieve this he will regularly meet with the SENDCo and the SLT throughout the academic year to inform a link governor report to the Governing Board.

## **Traffic and parking around Lawn Primary School – an update and request**

As we find ourselves back from the Christmas break, traffic continues to be a challenging issue in and around the Windsor Road area surrounding our school. Alongside the usual busy periods of drop off and pick up times, in January, we have also had to contend with a 3-way set of traffic lights in place at the junction of Windsor Road and Marlborough Road. These roadworks have been driven by the borough's continued roll-out of full fibre broadband to the area. An essential upgrade, I am sure we would all agree; however, this has caused further difficulties during the core school drop-off times. It has also meant that the parents attempting to park at the top of Windsor Road have not been able to do so easily or safely. The road works won't last forever, but we would encourage you to leave a little a little more time for your journey and also to park a little further away, even if this means a slightly longer walk to the school.

Once the roadworks finish, we would still take this opportunity to ask for **help** and **support** from parents driving to and from school. Unfortunately, there still appear to be a small number of parents who persist in parking in inappropriate places, e.g., over resident's driveways or on the public footpaths on Windsor Road, in some cases doing this in the yellow zig-zag areas close to the school gate (this is a highways violation, as parking fully on the curb does not negate the rules associated with the yellow zig-zag lines). It is illegal and more importantly, it's dangerous to be parking this close to the school crossing where our children cross. Please can we ask all parents to remember to park sensibly and respectfully when travelling to and from the school. This will safeguard all our children and show appropriate respect for the local residents. Many thanks for your support with this matter.

Best Wishes

The Lawn Governing Body