

## Your Governing Body

This year, the Governing Body of Birch Copse Primary School –consisting of Parent, Community, Local Education & Staff Governors – altered their structure to hold monthly Full Governor Meetings (FGM). This change enabled an even greater input between governance and operational (teaching), so that we can continue to work to improve the school environment for every child.

- In May the Governing Body approved the building of a new Library and covered walkway. Planning work has continued since then and we hope that building work will begin on site on 21<sup>st</sup> July. We expect the build to last until 28<sup>th</sup> November. Both the Staff and Governors understand that this will cause some disruption in the school, but we strongly feel that the long-term benefits of this new educational space will outweigh the short-term inconvenience.
- The Governing Body has also recently approved the installation of a new security door at the main entrance to the school. Safety & security is of primary concern to the Governing and staff at Birch Copse. We already have a very safe and secure educational environment for your child but it was felt that there should be a 'two-door' entry system at the entrance to minimise any future security issues.
- The Governing body, in partnership with the Staff have continued to monitor pupil progress in all years at Birch Copse. It is one of the roles of the Governors to evaluate educational progress with the Head Teacher and his staff.
- Governors attended the "Art of being Brilliant' presentation by Year 5 in May. This project encompassed work around positive thinking.
- Governors led the 'Governors Assembly' in June this year, where pupils had an opportunity to understand the role of the Governors at Birch Copse.
- Governors visited the classrooms during this year's 'Themed week'.
- Governors have been closely tracking progress of the School Development Plan. This year the priority has been on maths in particular. Teaching Assistants have received specialist training in maths and teachers have been allocated timetabling for intervention groups. The school now has two Teaching Assistants dedicated to Pupil Premium children. A Maths Progression Grid has been developed in the school and is now in use throughout the school by both teachers and pupils. The Grid is of such quality that 11 other local schools have purchased it from us. 'Looking for Learning' language is very much embedded throughout the school, with children knowing what to do if work is too easy or too hard. The children are more able to articulate clearly what they are learning, as opposed to what they are doing. 'Looking for Learning' has strengthened progress throughout the school.

We feel this it is important that Governors are involved in events in school and have the opportunity to engage with pupils and teaching staff on an informal basis as it helps Governors maintain their understanding of the school environment.

The Governing body is always happy to hear from parents in relation to School Governance. You can contact the Governing Body via email at: [Governors@birchcopse.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:Governors@birchcopse.w-berks.sch.uk)