



Development Board Meeting Review March 15th 2017

Parents and carers

It has been a while since you have had any feedback from the Development board about what has been being done to ensure the school is on track as it works towards hopefully achieving Outstanding status. It has been a busy year for Oaks with lots of positive work being done as well as recruiting a new Principal which will hopefully give the school the stability it needs to move forward. We welcome Mrs Tipple to the school and look forward to helping her and the staff continue to provide strong development for our children.

A reminder about the current set up for governance of the school: An Academy Board oversees all 4 schools in the cluster and reports to the Trust Board and each school has a Development Group. The role of the Development Group is to support and monitor the school's progress and work with staff to achieve its goals and to continue to offer a high standard of teaching and engagement for pupils. This group meets 3 times a year as well as carrying out numerous visits and other duties.

At the meeting held on the 15th we discussed a wide range of topics, many of which were related to performance and looking at how pupils are progressing through the school year. We discussed targets for achievement that are regularly reviewed. I am happy to inform you that our expectations for this year is to again be above the National Average in all areas and the pupils are working hard and on track to achieve this goal. This is down to the hard work of the staff, commitment to learning from pupils and support from parents and carers.

It was commented that Oaks does not offer its pupils incentives or rewards for good behaviour as some schools do. This is because good behaviour is expected from all students and rewards are given for hard work and positive performance which ensures pupils efforts are recognised. This again, is due in large part to the support parents and carers give to the school in maintaining high standards of behaviour and attendance. With regard to the school's attendance it must be noted that the expectations for average attendance is 96%, this is one area that counted against the school achieving Outstanding status in its last inspection. Our current attendance is 95.1% which is an improvement however we do still have some work to do. It would really help the school if all parents can make every effort to get their children to school every day, on time and ready to learn. We do recognise that there are factors that can prevent children from attending but we are so very close to our target and your support would be appreciated.

Another serious point of discussion again focused on parking outside of the school pedestrian entrance on Mangravet Avenue. This has been a long term problem and again seems to be increasing. We realise that there are not many spaces for parking close to this entrance, however we must ask that cars are not stopped on the double

yellow lines or close to the crossing point. This is an increasingly busy area and any reduction in visibility of the school gates, crossing point or junction puts people at risk and the number of near misses or indeed minor vehicle collisions is increasing. We may not have had a serious incident to date but if this thoughtless parking or indeed stopping to drop children off persists our luck will run out. These are your children or children of fellow Oaks students and we should do all we can to make sure they can get into and out of school safely. There are spaces further along Mangravet Avenue or in Oaks Avenue that provide a safer place to leave your cars for the few minutes it takes to drop your children off or pick them up. In the coming weeks we will be liaising with Kent County Council and engaging the children in looking at how we can highlight the dangers and prevent this problem from continuing. *Since this was written, a child riding their scooter on a path was nudged by a car trying to manoeuvre around other cars.*

On a more positive note we were able to celebrate a number of extra-curricular events that continue to offer our students opportunities to participate in sports, music and other areas through after school clubs, in school activities and events organised and supported by Friends of Oaks. We agree that this area is one in which Oaks continues to make good progress and our students find these activities fun, engaging and rewarding. Particular mention was given to the Oaks Choir's participation in the Young Voices concert at the O2. 40 pupils plus support staff took part in this event alongside pupils from Molehill, Treetops and 7500 other children from around the country. A good number of parents and staff also went along to cheer wildly and support our children. I am delighted to report that the feedback from this event was fantastic. The children's positive attitude, enthusiasm and good behaviour was noted and commented on by staff from other schools attending and Young Voices staff and those who were able to attend one of the Choirs performances will attest that the children were amazing and sung brilliantly. This was a significant undertaking for the school and opportunities like this do not come without a great deal of hard work and support. Thanks must go to all those involved in helping the children before, during and after the event but a few special mentions must be made. Firstly, to Golding Homes who helped to provide the coach that took the pupils to and from the venue, secondly to Bill Devine who came back to open up the school at 11 o'clock that evening to ensure the children could be collected safely, thirdly to Gill Morris who helped to make sure all children were dropped home where parents were unable to pick them up at that time of night. Lastly, but by no means least, to Mrs Bennoson and Ms Dunn who organised, coordinated, cajoled and supported the choir from start to finish. I have it on good authority that they have already entered the choir to next year's event and, personally, I am looking forward to watching Oaks Choir performing again at the O2.

Our next meeting will be in June and we will try to organise another Parent/Governors meeting after Easter. In the mean time if you have any issue you would like addressed please either raise it through the school, speak to me on the playground or leave a note for me with the school reception.

Many thanks for your continued support of the school and your children.

Ian Miles
Parent Governor

Mrs J Tipple
School Representative