

Governors News

Happy New Year. We hope that you have all had a healthy and happy start to 2024. We hear that the children have settled very well back into school, after what often is a very busy holiday! Not much rest and relaxation time, especially for the grown ups!

Here is a little update of what the Governors did last term. We look forward to our second set of visits for many of us this term, as we continue to monitor the school development plan for the Academy.

Committees and meetings

Curriculum and Pupils committee by Jenny Scarpenter (Chair)

The Curriculum committee is a sub committee of the full governing body. There are currently 5 members of the Curriculum Committee, including Mr Burden. That will increase with the addition of some new governors joining the board soon.

We last met on the 16th November last year and this is what was discussed:

- 45% of children in years 1-6 are on track to reach expected standards in reading, writing and maths.
- Progress meetings have been held with all teachers and anonymised data was provided to the committee.
- Children in years 3-6 experienced prolonged lockdowns and missed crucial time in Reception and years 1 and 2, resulting in them missing some of the important building blocks of education.
- Whole class reading is being promoted and a recent observation showed this was going well.
- An action plan is in place with regards to writing which is currently below standard across the Academy.
- The reward system at the Academy is going to be considered and refreshed.
- Links between the Academy and the pre-school were improving.
- Following the success of the installation of the tyre park and running track, the Academy will decide on what they would like to fundraise for next and inform parents and FFG.
- The children's behaviour in the Academy is very good.

The next Curriculum Committee meeting will be on the 15th February 2024.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee by Katie Brown (Chair)

The Finance Audit and Risk (FAR) committee came together on the 23rd November 2023, for the first FAR meeting of the academic year. During this meeting we reviewed the latest monthly Management Accounts, 2023 Financial Statement and relevant policies for 2024. We also invited our auditors who presented the findings of our Year End Internal Audit report and I am pleased to advise there were no significant findings or risk of material loss.

Full Governing Body meeting

We always end a term with a FGB. We hear a lengthy Principals report from Mr Burden; always impeccably detailed. This is full of information about what has been happening at the Academy; it always starts with a safeguarding update and gives us information about our pupils progress, staff and subject development, attendance data, to name just a few of the subheadings. We discussed the physical developments at the Academy already this year, including our running track, music room and canopy. We asked Mr Burden what his next wishes would be, and we know he will work alongside our active Friends of Flich Green to fundraise for our next project; to improve our outside grounds for better and more active and creative playtimes.

We signed off a request for 90 new i pads to be purchased to support and develop the IT curriculum, further at the Academy. We had a great update from our staff Governor Mrs Farley about the writing curriculum at FGA that she has been working really hard on with Miss Thomas and what its intent and implementation will look like. It is exciting!

We will meet again as an FGB in the Spring term, once committees have met together again.

Governor Visits

Meeting our SENCO Tracy Young by Katie Bailey

Myself and our chair of Governors, Carly met with Tracy to find out how she has settled into FGA since joining us in September, and also to see what progress we are making since our last Ofsted visit in July. Tracy has a vast knowledge and wealth of experience working in different settings with SEND children; excellent to hear about. She has implemented new interventions, using our current staff expertise, for our pupils and documented this in a recent newsletter. She is very keen to continue working within the classrooms, getting to know our SEND children and also to build positive relationships with their families and home support networks. It was great that Mr Burden also joined us to discuss the development of the SEND team within our Academy. It is really apparent that we need to empower our SEND parents to work *with* us, in partnership, to help and support their children, who are always at the centre of all the decisions that we make.

Visit to Reception and Miss Thomas by Katie Bailey

I spent the morning in Pluto class, with a whistle stop visit to Mercury too! My focus of the morning was writing, as this is a big part of our school development plan this year. It was wonderful to see a writing workshop in real life, as I have talked to both Miss Thomas and Mrs Farley about these lessons. The children were all engaged and focused. They all joined in brilliantly with the story about the Gingerbread man. There were a lot of opportunities for the children to use actions to tell the well known story. Miss Thomas used lots of word recognition and word building techniques to build on the children's vocabulary and their understanding of the meaning of the 'new' vocabulary that was being introduced. Lots of oracy was happening!

All the children had opportunities to write and mark make in their books. Already, the progress from the beginning of the year is incredible for all of the children and can very evidently be seen looking through the childrens books. The children are proud of their work and are all

willing to have a go and wanted to show me and tell me about their work. Miss Thomas also encourages them to think about how they could make it even better next time!

All the children seemed extremely settled and happy nearing the end of their first term at school. I was also really excited to hear they have started their forest school time with Ms Knightsbridge.

Sun Class Assembly by Katie Brown

I had the pleasure of attending Sun Class' assembly on 30th November. I must say I was incredibly impressed with how the children of Sun Class all got involved, the sheer number of lines they were able to recall and confidently deliver along with the care and support they showed each other when another child needed a prompt with their line.

I was equally impressed with the behaviour of the children in the audience, even our youngest classes were able to sit and listen for almost 20 minutes.

Pupil Premium - Autumn Term Visit by Katie Brown

On 30th November 2023, I met with Mr Burden to discuss Pupil Premium and how funding was being utilised. It was clear from our meeting that Mr Burden and the team are passionate and committed to improving the outcomes for children who are eligible for Pupil Premium. They are actively trying to think of new ways in which we can support the children, and their families, with this funding. In addition, it was pleasing to see the robust tracking of the support offered and associated impact which ensures we can identify trends and adapt accordingly in order to achieve the desired outcomes.

EYFS Nativity by Amy Hawes

What a festive morning!

I had the pleasure to be invited into school for the Reception dress rehearsal Nativity. Myself and pre school had a lovely time and it was wonderful to see how hard the children and staff had worked. They knew all the songs and actions and with great big smiles they were proud of their show. They'd learnt so much in such a short time, and the pre schoolers enjoyed themselves; next year a few of them will be on the stage too and it'll be their time to shine. It certainly got us all in the Christmas spirit.



Christmas Concerts by Carly Bucknell


I attended the Christmas Concert on 18th December, which had a great, packed to the rafters festive feel in the lead up to the Xmas break. It was so lovely to see so many parents and carers in attendance, to share in their children's musical enthusiasm for all things Christmas. I think you will agree, Mrs Shakallis & team did a sterling job with creating and organising the event, ensuring that everything ran smoothly. Thank you for your efforts to put on a fantastic show. Also huge well done to all of the children, we were all delighted by your amazing performance/s, I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to showcase your talents.

Invitation to Christmas Dinner

Katie, Jenny and Amy joined the children and staff in their final week of term for their annual Christmas dinner. Thank you again to all the staff for their hard work in 2023. Christmas is a very busy time in school (and out) and it was lovely to see the children joining in the festivities. Lunch was enjoyed by all, with Christmas cookies to finish. The children enjoyed pulling their crackers and listening to Christmas tunes whilst eating. Behaviour was good in the lunch hall. Whilst the staff ate, the children enjoyed a film afternoon. Our year 6 children did an excellent job looking after their Reception buddies.

Meet the new Flitch Green Academy Governors

Name	Membership	
<p data-bbox="113 741 301 770">Alan Ellwood</p> 	<p data-bbox="403 741 624 770">Parent Governor</p>	<p data-bbox="699 741 1509 1178">My wife and I moved to Flitch Green at the end of 2017, fast forward 18 months and we welcomed our baby daughter. When it came to choosing a primary school for her, The Flitch Green Academy was our first choice and when this also coincided with an appeal for new parent and community governors, I took the opportunity to put myself forward. My background is in accountancy, and I am an ACCA qualified accountant. My working life has taken me from an accountancy practice, doing everything from preparing accounts for small companies to auditing some of the Cambridge colleges to a well-known cosmetics brand based in Chelmsford, a chemical ingredient distributor in Bishop's Stortford and I currently find myself at a charter airline based at Stansted Airport.</p> <p data-bbox="699 1216 1509 1346">I joined the governing body to put something back into the excellent community we live in and to ensure that all children (including my daughter) get the best out of their early school adventures.</p> <p data-bbox="699 1384 1509 1480">I'm looking forward to working with the other governors and helping them to continue the excellent work they are doing at the Academy.</p>
<p data-bbox="137 1509 277 1538">Jon Nunn</p> 	<p data-bbox="403 1509 624 1538">Parent Governor</p>	<p data-bbox="699 1509 1509 1682">I moved to Flitch Green in 2018 with my family. My eldest son started at the Academy in 2021 and my second son is due to hopefully start in Reception this September. I was born and raised with views over the sugar beet factory and went to school locally, so have good knowledge of the area.</p> <p data-bbox="699 1720 1509 1883">After moving away for some time, I returned, as I knew Flitch Green would be a great place to raise a young family. I currently serve in the Metropolitan Police, where I have worked on the front line for the last twenty years as a Police Officer and now a Sergeant.</p> <p data-bbox="699 1921 1509 2018">I applied to be a Parent Governor this year as I want to contribute and lend my skills and ideas to the running of the school and help shape its future.</p>

<p>Laura Lilley</p> 	<p>Community Governor</p>	<p>I'm a Marketing Manager for a new build housing developer, and I am excited to have recently taken on the role of Community Governor for the Flitch Green Academy as of December 2023. I've lived in Flitch Green for the last 8 years.</p> <p>Bringing over 10 years of experience in Marketing, Communications, and PR, my professional background aligns with my passion for community involvement and education. My son will hopefully be attending Flitch Green Academy in 2025 and I wanted to get more involved, to support the values and aspirations of the Academy. I hope to be able to leverage my skills to contribute to the school's growth and success, with a focus on raising the profile of our school through new initiatives.</p> <p>I am excited about the opportunity to collaborate with the local community, working together to create a positive and enriching educational environment.</p>
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We are always in the look out to welcome more Governors to join our body, so please do get in touch if you would like to know more, and get involved with monitoring, developing and improving the Academy for our children.

Safeguarding Visits by Jenny Scarpenter

As the designated safeguarding governor, I meet with Mr Burden 6 times a year (twice a term) as he is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at the Academy. Mrs Evans is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Last term we met on the 13th October and 19th December. We are following the Essex County Council model of safeguarding visits so this means that each visit focuses on a different area of safeguarding. In my first visit we looked at site security and safeguarding training. In the second visit we looked at the role of the DSL and our safeguarding policy and procedures. I am left very satisfied that the children at Flitch Green Academy are kept very safe by Mr Burden and his team. The Inspector at our recent Ofsted inspection also reached the same conclusion.

My next visit will be on the 26th January 2024 when we will be focusing on the Single Central Record and Safer Recruitment. The Single Central Record is a document that contains the details of all adults that enter the school on a regular basis (teachers, support staff, midday assistants, afterschool club leaders, cleaners etc). It records their details and the dates on which they completed safeguarding training and when we obtained their Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate. This ensures that all adults that come into contact with our children are suitably vetted and trained.

If you have a safeguarding concern please speak to Mr Burden or one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (Mrs Evans and Mrs Hodgkinson). If you are left unhappy with the outcome of your concern, please feel free to speak to me or email me on Jenny.scarpenter@flitchgreen.net.

Finally the next Governor/Parent Surgery...

A school Governing Body provides support and challenge to a school leadership team and staff, with oversight to ensure education, financial, people and strategic management, which is managed on a day to day basis by the Academy Leadership Team, are carried out to a high standard. Most questions that you have about the school can be answered by your child's class teacher or by contacting Mr Burden.

The Governors will hold our third **parent surgery on Thursday 29th February at 08.30 - 09.00 and 15.00 - 15.30** . This will take place in the Discovery Centre.

What is a Governor/Parent Surgery?

A chance for parents to talk openly to Governors informally. We are always here to listen. We will be located in the Discovery Centre during the times above . If you cannot make this date we are always happy to hear from you if you have a question or comment about the Academy. Please email carly.bucknell@flitchgreen.net or write to Carly Bucknell , Chair of Governors, c/o Flitch Green Academy.