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9th January 2024

Update from the Governing Body

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely Christmas break and are looking forward to what the new year will bring. As a parent with a child at Manor Park myself, I loved coming into school to see the nativity, hearing all about the trip to Brackenhurst and seeing the lovely Christmas crafts the children had made. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all the hard work they put into the Christmas performances and preparing the many festive activities for the children to enjoy. Thanks also goes to all the parents and carers for their continued support of the school over the course of our first full term.

Since the start of the academic year, the Governing Body have continued to work to support the school with our vision to give local children "the best start in life – no excuses – no compromise". We have done this by:

- Carrying out an audit of the school's safeguarding systems
- Completing a health and safety audit
- Reviewing and approving the school's financial plans
- Approving new and updated policies
- Completion of the Headteacher's appraisal
- Scrutiny of the school's performance data
- Attendance at collaboration meetings with local schools
- Supporting the Headteacher with key decisions when needed
- Maintaining regular contact with the school, visiting informally and holding termly meetings.

As we move into 2024, we are looking to expand our Governing Body. We currently have vacancies for co-opted governors. A co-opted governor is a person who is appointed by the Governing Body, who has the knowledge, experience and skills to contribute to the effectiveness of the Governing Body, and therefore the success of the school.

Our current Governing Body has a broad spectrum of skills and expertise. Between us we have a good knowledge of the education system; school and business finance; provision for children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and LAC (Looked After, or previously Looked After Children); GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and understanding of policies and procedures. We are well represented by parents with children at the school.

We are looking for people who can bring a different perspective to our team; perhaps a local business owner or worker, local councillor, parents or grandparents. Prospective governors do not need to hold a particular position. The most important thing is that they fit well with the existing team, understand the importance of confidentiality and upholding the good reputation of the school and have the best interests of children at heart. Appropriate training and support will be given to anyone appointed as a governor.

We are holding an information event for anyone interested in becoming a school governor at 5.00pm until 6:00pm on Thursday 18th January. The event will be held at the school and will offer people the chance to look round the school, speak to the current members of the governing body and find out more about what being a governor entails. The intention is that it is an informal event where prospective governors can chat to us and ask any questions they might have. People can then formally express an interest following the event if they feel being a governor is something they would like to do.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in attending the event on 18th January then please let our Business Manager, Mrs Kelley, know via the school email office@manorpark.notts.sch.uk. If you have any questions or would like to speak to me directly, you can contact me at scastle@manorpark.notts.sch.uk.

Kind regards,

Sarah Castle

Chair of Governors