



# Ombersley Endowed First School Governor News

Issue 6 July 2016



*Rob Brett - Chair of Governors*

## Our Travel Plan

**After many months of careful evidence gathering and consideration, Governors have finally agreed to the publication of our Travel Plan. You can find it on the Policies page of the school website.**

Our thanks must go to one of our parents, Emma Payne, who knows a great deal about these matters and who has guided us through the process of building our plan. Thanks also to Dawn Harding, one of the parent governors, who has been responsible for ensuring that the plan gained the approval of the Governing Body. We have found that, from previous initiatives, there is very little that can be done when the parent body does not support it. But we do feel that there are things which can be done to reduce the pressures of parking outside the school:

- We will encourage parents to car share or park and walk on an informal basis – promoting the idea that just doing this on one day a week would reduce cars outside school by 20%
- We will extend drop and go to Reception children after their first term to enable a greater number of parents to use drop and go. This was introduced in February 2016.
- We will continue to promote drop and go throughout the school
- We will introduce and promote special activities in the afterschool club on the worst congested days to encourage children to stay until 4 on an occasional basis.
- We will continue to try and engage the Local Authority Highways Department on wider issues relating to speed on the A4133 and the layby. Parents will be encouraged to raise safety concerns with the Local Authority.

**We will, during the Autumn Term, be telling you some more about the last point. We do think that parental pressure here can be decisive. We will also, through the Parent Governors, hold a meeting of parents to discuss in more detail the travel plan and what parents can do.**

## The Holidays are almost here!

We are sure that you are all looking forward to the summer break which starts soon, but before then we need to tell you about a number of things that are happening in the background and which we will be consulting you on in September.

### In this issue...

Our Travel Plan

Parent Governor

Academy status and the age range of the school

Holiday in term-time

## Parent Governor

One of our Parent Governors, Peter Moseley, has resigned from the Governing Body. Pete has been a great help to the school in the last two years that he has served as Governor but he has found recently that his work commitments have increasingly limited the time he has been able to devote to the Governor role.

The Parent Governors are elected by parents, and so the school will begin an election process to appoint a new Governor. This will take place during September and, soon after the term begins, you will all be informed how the process will take place and asking for nominations for the post.

## Academy Status and the age range of the school.

You will recall in the last Newsletter that it was the Government's ambition that every school is contained within an Academy by 2022 and that we were having "talks about talks" with other schools about forming a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). These talks have been continuing, but in the meantime there has been new Government guidance that, for schools like ours, there is no longer a requirement that we should be an academy by 2022 - although there was nothing to stop us should we wish to join other schools to become one.

Our Governing Body welcomed this relaxation, because it meant that we could go forward to our own timetable rather be rushed into a decision that might not have been the most suitable one for the school.

It also meant that we could determine what is the most important strategic aim for the school. For some time parents have been telling Governors

informally that they would like us to consider becoming a Primary School – that is extending our age range to 4-11.

We are in a pyramid that has First, Middle and Secondary schools, so even considering "going primary" can be destabilising and, until now, we have not actively considered it. But in our Pyramid one First School has already converted to a Primary, one has applied to do so and a third has joined an Academy consisting of Primary schools.

So, at our last Governing Body meeting we decided that we would "**actively consider our direction of travel to be to become a primary school**" and that we would determine what our parents' views were by consulting them in the first few weeks of the new term in September.

We realise that this is an extremely important step in the life of our school, so we will take things forward carefully and only in accordance with the wishes of our parent body.



## Holidays in Term Time

You will probably have been following with interest the case of The Isle of Wight Council v Jon Platt after a parent refused to pay a penalty for taking his child out of school during term time for a holiday.

The High court ruling in favour of Mr Platt has caused Councils to reconsider their advice to schools and Worcestershire has been no different. They have now advised us that, pending a clarification of the law, they will review absence over a period of 12 weeks. Where the unauthorised absence is at least 10% or more during that period (including the period of holiday absence) the criteria for issuing a Penalty Notice will be deemed to have been met. During this time, only unauthorised absences will be counted.

The advice of the Governors and Headteachers of this school remains the same. Your children will benefit from you sending them to school 100% of the time during term time and you should think about how important their education is.

There will be no change in how the Governors and Headteacher assess whether absence is authorised or unauthorised. For more information you can read our Leave in Term Time Absence Policy which you will find on the website.

## Your Governors are...

**Rob Brett - Chair** Foundation Governor  
**Liz Hooper - Vice chair** Foundation Governor  
**Jo Tapp** Foundation Governor  
**John Smith** Foundation Governor  
**Lynne Stanley** Foundation Governor  
**Louise Robinson** Foundation Governor

**Chris Briggs** Foundation Governor  
**Janet Pittaway** Foundation Governor  
**Diane Cornock** Local Authority Representative  
**Jane Hill** Foundation Governor  
**Ruth Douglas-Osborn** Staff Governor  
**Dawn Harding** Parent Governor  
**Caroline Moore** Headteacher

Contact Rob Brett via the school office or Email: [bobrett@btinternet.com](mailto:bobrett@btinternet.com)