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24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Head's letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you with some updates regarding staffing and leadership (Governors).

#### Clerk to the Governors

We have been trying for some time to recruit a Clerk to the Governors. So far, we have been unsuccessful and this does create a lot of extra work for the office staff in addition to their current roles. We are seeking a very organised and supportive person who is willing to learn the laws of governance. It is a paid role and ideally, it usually is someone from the wider community as it helps with travel.

Please could you share amongst family, friends and groups to help us secure this crucial role? [More information here.](#) Remember our FoSS thinking, grandparents and locals too when looking at jobs or volunteer roles (Friends of the school).

#### Governor Role: Local Authority (LA) Appointment and Foundation Governor (church links)

Very recently, a long-standing governor (and loved), Carol Flach who had recently taken on SEND governor and Safeguarding has decided to not renew her terms. Therefore, we currently need an LA governor and now a Foundation Governor. In the absence of a clerk, please email our new chair, Mrs Sian Armitage with any support or links you have to support us to recruit. Her email is [chairofgovernors@sps.w-berk.sch.uk](mailto:chairofgovernors@sps.w-berk.sch.uk) We have put together sheets to share or explain the procedures to others. An educational background is desirable.

#### Parents' Evening Appointments

We are holding **face-to-face meetings at school this term on 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February**. We decided to change back to face to face because when we moved to hybrid appointments this time last year we actually created extra workload for teachers. Unfortunately, many parents did not pick up the phone or turn up to appointments.

So, this year the appointments are back to being held at school, infants in their classrooms and juniors in the library (after school club use the hall). At this point in the year, we will discuss whether your child is making progress in line with their starting point or on track to meet age related expectations. February is a super month for predictions as developmentally they are at their closest point in age.

#### Standardised Assessment Tests May 2024: Yr6 Mon 29<sup>th</sup> January 6pm start (5/6 classroom)

Mr White is holding a personalised event to explain this year's arrangements for the up and coming SATs. He will share what supports your child with their preparation. Little and often, using the CPG 10 minute books, with and without support. Highlighting key words, ticking

two above the word two and looking at the marks. These tests are just as much an experience as knowledge.

He will ensure you are aware what expectations your children are aiming for and how this, with your support, can be achieved. He is likely to pick this up with his notes at parents' evening. Our assessment window closes on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 internally.

### **Safeguarding leads in school**

From half term Mrs Hartley (class teacher 3/4 and school SENDCo) will be one of our nominated deputy safeguarding leads along with Mrs MacDonald (class teacher 1/2 and curriculum specialist). Previously Mr White had held this position with me, however his training is up for renewal and I have chosen to move this into a team response with myself remaining as leader. Mrs MacDonald has experience from when she was an assistant Headteacher locally (before joining us) and Mrs Hartley's training is up to date. These changes allow me to have a wider reach and it is supportive to my role as the designated safeguarding lead.



### **The Hub in Goring**

On Tuesday this week, I had a lovely talk with Trustee, Melanie Meads from The Hub – Bridging the Gap. She was so delighted and grateful for our community support at Christmas via your donations and ours (staff). She is inviting us down to The Hub to meet up and discuss how we share with the children and you the difference our contributions will make. I shared with her that we are making a donation tree in the entrance with all the lovely messages and hope to move this around the village to different locations until July 2024.

P.s. Does anyone have a night camera we can borrow to attach to a tree to track a fox?