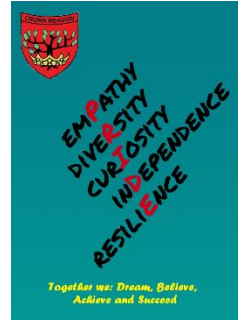




GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023



Crown Meadow First School & Nursery

Birmingham Road, Alvechurch, B48 7TA

Telephone: 0121 445 4540

Email: office@crowmeadow.worcs.sch.uk

kwiseman@crowmeadow.worcs.sch.uk

Welcome Back!

I am writing to you at the start of 2023, how quickly last term passed and how busy it was for all at Crown Meadow.

Further improvements were made to our Nursery area, both outdoors and indoors, and this is part of our ongoing programme to improve facilities in our 'Early Years' area. I have to say a big thank you to 'EH Smith' for their donation of wood, bark and other materials.

Governors have been able to get back into school to undertake their full duties post-covid and offer support to staff and pupils and to ensure that post-Ofsted action plan is underway and we continue to strive that Crown Meadow delivers the best possible education for your children.

I hope that you all have a great 2023.

Kind regards

Mr Keith Wiseman
Chair of Governors

Academisation

You may be aware that the Government produced a White Paper in March 2022 called:

'Opportunity for All: strong schools with great teachers for your child'. This was accompanied by two further supporting documents: 'The case for a fully trust-led system' and 'Economic benefits of meeting the ambitions set out in the Schools White Paper'.

In these documents the Government set out expectations that every school should be part of a Multi-Academy Trust, (MAT), by the year 2030. As you can imagine, this position met a great deal of resistance across the board and Worcestershire LA made it clear that they would not be forcing any schools to go down this route at this time. Governors spent a great deal of time during the past 3 meetings discussing the implications of the White Paper and agreeing a plan moving forward. I attended an independent seminar organised by the NAHT, (National Association of Headteachers), where we received presentations from a number of organisations which I shared with governors, we also undertook a considerable amount of reading before coming to our conclusion. In the meeting on 21st November, governors concluded, that at this time we would not actively move towards joining a MAT but that we would continue to monitor the situation and review again at the end of this year. One of the major factors in our decision was the uncertainty around which Government we might have post-2024 and how that would affect the choices we may then have, still leaving 6 years to meet any requirements.

At this time we have a very good working relationship with a number of other First Schools in the area and we are striving to further enhance those opportunities and will continue to do so. This too would factor into decisions post-2024.

Less than a week after our meeting the Government quietly announced that they were placing the expectations of the White Paper 'on hold' and would be issuing updated guidelines in due course. We will, of course, still monitor the situation. Should anyone need further information then please contact me via the school office.

Chair of Governors - Keith Wiseman

Christmas Fayre

What a fantastic occasion this was and so nice to have the opportunity for the whole school community to come together again. Great thanks need to go to the school staff, PTA, governors and many more for organising, manning stalls, making things to sell and helping out, to the children for all their work and to you their parents/carers and your friends and family, firstly for donating so generously and then for coming along and ensuring that it all went so spectacularly well.

We made £2,600 and it will all be spent on enhancing facilities and resources for your children.

ALVECHURCH COMMUNITY LARDER



OPENING ON FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2022

OPENING HOURS – Every Friday between 11.00am and 12.30pm

LOCATION – Alvechurch Baptist Church Hall (side entrance)

Alvechurch Parish residents welcome.

Pay £4 each week (cash only) and receive approximately £20 worth of food.

Bring your own bags.

Help stop food going to waste.

For more information contact 07917 404878.

Alvechurch Parish Residents – Reducing the cost of living by reducing food waste.

Community Larder

As you will be aware by now we have a community larder operating in the village. A larder is different from a food bank, firstly in that its primary purpose is to reduce food waste and secondly, because of that anyone can go without the need for a referral from a professional such as a doctor or social worker. Despite this it also has the knock-on effect of supporting families that are struggling with the cost of living.

We believe that it is important for our pupils to understand the issues that are facing families at this time and so a presentation was made in an assembly to all of the children to explain those issues and how larders, (sometimes called pantries), can help while also reducing the mountains of food that is wasted every year.

The pupil leadership team, (Head boy and girl and Deputy Head boy and girl), have visited the larder to meet with the volunteers and see for themselves what happens and they will now work with the school council to further enhance our pupils understanding. The school council has already decided to have a class poster competition for the larder and we will, of course, let you know the results.

Nursery

In September we welcomed a new full-time teacher to our nursery, Miss Emily Daly, she has worked tirelessly with her staff to firstly review the provision and then to put in place changes needed to enhance the opportunities for our children. Many of these have already been made, both inside and outside, but this is an ongoing project which will continue through until July.

There are still some limited spaces available so if you know of anyone looking for nursery provision then please point them in our direction where they should contact the school office.



Parent Governor Election Results

Thank you for voting in the recent Parent Governor election. We can now confirm that Adam Staite was re-elected as Parent Governor from 7/2/2023.