

Governors' Annual Reports, Autumn 2020

Aldborough Governors discuss school matters at Full Governing Body (FGB) meetings. Much of the 'nitty gritty' work of the governing board is done in committee meetings. Our three committees are Finance and Personnel, Curriculum, and Premises and Communications.

Richard Hembling, chair of governors, writes:

This past year has been different for us all but the strategic role of governors remain the same, being supportive critical friends to the school. The efforts of the school staff from Head teacher through to cleaners has been immense to enable our children to return to school for a time last term and to start this term feeling safe and reassured that life continues during these strange times. The support of governors throughout this time has been impressive from learning new technology to allow on-line meetings to hands on practical help, or being sounding boards. Aldborough goes forward as a stronger cohesive team to enable our pupils to continue to grow in the Aldborough way.

Curriculum Committee

Our focus has continued to be the monitoring of curriculum delivery and standards, and the protection of the children's mental and physical well-being and safety. We always aim to support the staff in their drive to provide a broad and creative curriculum and to enable the children to have rich and exciting experiences. During the past year some children were able to take part in a thrilling project, 'The Magic Flute' at the Royal Albert Hall, and all the children have participated in increased levels of outdoor learning and Forest School, including the development of the new garden following their triumphant win at the Royal Norfolk Show last summer.

Since all the changes that started in March, we have continued to support the head teacher and staff and to sustain our monitoring roles. Although this has been more difficult because of not being able to visit the school in person, we have been able to see the learning materials provided on Facebook and the website, including videos of story-telling, phonics, maths, topic learning, live lessons and learning packs, and to see the children's responses in their photos and work. Safeguarding monitoring meetings take place monthly, the link governors for maths, science and English continue to communicate with the subject leaders to keep in touch with what is going on, and we have regular meetings (by phone or Zoom) with the head teacher, staff and governors.

Jan Legge, chair

Finance and Personnel Committee

The Finance & Personnel committee have carried on with their work to ensure that the financial resources we have are put to the best possible use, so that we can continue to achieve optimal outcomes for all our children.

In addition to the wonderful front playground redesign, we have also invested in our growing forest schools provision. We have very much enjoyed seeing the results of this, via the social media photos, and look forward to seeing how the children develop whilst using these amazing resources.

The demands of keeping our children and staff safe during the pandemic have of course meant that we've had to increase our spending on cleaning, health & safety equipment etc. We are very pleased with how the staff have been able to adapt the school premises and ways of operating, whilst maintaining the Aldborough way!

Georgia Withers, chair

Premises and Communications Committee

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on premises, health and safety and the way the school operates. Oh for the days when our main worries were boilers, car parking and Tracy's dishwasher. Summer term 2020 saw the marquee go up on the school field so that extra children could be brought back to school. It was a great success and let's hope the Y6 children who missed out on so much will have happy memories of their weeks under the canvas.

We're now focussed on areas like social distancing, cleaning, bubbles and COVID-19 testing. All the school staff have done an amazing job during these very, very difficult times. As we go forward we are all getting more used to the need to adapt quickly to the changing situation, to ensure our children are protected, healthy and happy.

Tim Morgan, chair