

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2017



DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

Reflecting on the past three months since our last newsletter really puts time in perspective – the daffodils are now blooming to signal spring and now that the clocks have gone forward, summer is just around the corner.

As a new member of the Strategic Governing Body, I'm amazed by the sense of community that has quickly grown around both schools. Parental involvement is high, reflecting the importance of school life and this can only have

a positive effect on children's outcomes and overall experience of school.

There are always changes to stay on top of as a school governor, whether they be national, local or school-specific. The education landscape these past few months has been dominated by changes to the school funding formula and potential re-emergence of grammar schools, whilst school leaders continue to adapt to changes in performance measures and a national shortage of teachers. Schools are having to face growing challenges and being part of STEP Academy Trust provides a stable platform to do this.

During these challenges, it's important to focus on the positives: the work undertaken at both La Fontaine and Heathfield Academies continues to amaze the governing body and the dedication of the staff, leadership teams and school communities is worthy of praise and a big thank you.



LA FONTAINE ACADEMY

It's with great sadness that we have had to say goodbye to a member of the school community this month. Madame Davis, who was one of our inspirational LSAs, sadly passed away on the evening of 10th March after a short battle with cancer. The whole school community and governing body send their thoughts and condolences to Madame Davis's family, including her two young children, during this difficult time. As a school we aim to always support our children, staff and families and if anyone requires any assistance then please do get in touch.

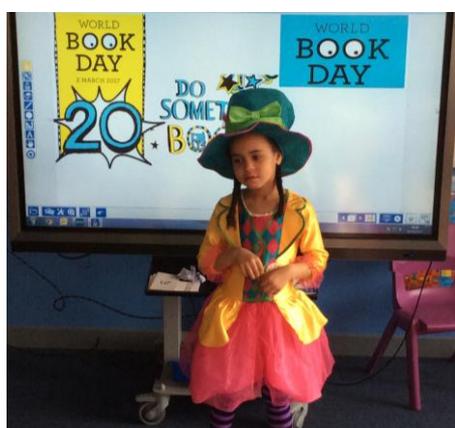
Dr Chapleau's Monday newsletters are a valuable snapshot of life at the school, and La Fontaine has continued to be a hive of activity this term with World Book Day, drumming workshops, problem-solving workshops and themed weeks such as British Science week and Semaine de la Francophonie all taking

place. These events do a great deal to raise awareness of important causes as well as accelerate learning and build curiosity and excitement for the children involved.

Oracy work has been a focus, with all children encouraged to form their own opinions on subject matters. In fact, 'not having an opinion isn't an option', and children have been learning the importance of reaching a balanced opinion based on evidence.

Looking forward to the summer term, we welcome our Deputy Headteacher Madame Crittenden back from maternity leave. Madame Crittenden's hard work and dedication to the school has been missed and we can't wait to welcome her back to life at La Fontaine.

Building work is continuing on the school's new permanent site at The Widmore Centre and remains on course for the move in September 2017. Dr Chapleau has been attending regular meetings with the architects to review design plans and the first phase is expected to be ready to accommodate 300 children.



HEATHFIELD ACADEMY

Life at a bustling primary school is certainly never dull, and this past term has seen its fair share of exciting trips, activities and projects to feed back on, all in the name of learning!

World Book Day saw the creativity flowing, as the whole school was involved in creating a display that was then entered into a competition to win money for books. We were very proud of the joint effort the children and staff made and this paid off as the school came runners up in the competition – well done!

Continuing the theme of reading, the school enjoyed a day of slumber with children wearing pyjamas to school and taking part in reading activities throughout the day. Staff also got a chance to read their favourite books to the children and the cause helped to raise money to buy more books for the classroom. Talk about immersive learning!

Comic Relief sees the nation come together to raise funds to help tackle poverty, and this year's Red Nose Day was no different, with the fundraising total set to be the biggest ever. Heathfield got fully behind the event and played their part by raising money to wear as many red items as they could. Parents attended afternoon tea at the school and were kept entertained by a red parade by the children to round off the day!

School trips can really bring learning to life, and after learning about the Great Fire of London at school, Year 1 got the chance to travel by train to London Bridge and walk along the Thames to see the key historic sites they've been learning about. This included a stop in Pudding Lane to see where the fire started, seeing St Paul's Cathedral which was badly damaged in the fire and then taking in the Great Fire of London exhibition at the Museum of London. A very exciting and exhausting day for all!



The Wandle Project visited the school recently to talk to the children about the River Wandle and how we can help to protect it and the wildlife it supports. Reception children get the chance to visit a farm on

Thursday before Easter break to bring their learning of living things to life and will get a chance to see the river too.

Finally, Reception and Year 1 have been sharing their learning with parents and families in two great assemblies this term. The assemblies were really well attended and provided a great chance for children to showcase their work and reinforce their learning!



A group of parents were invited to a tour of Heathfield Academy's permanent site on 27th February to see the building progress and visualise the inspirational learning space that is being created for their children from September 2017. The school is arranging a similar tour for staff and children and the contractors will be coming to an assembly to talk to the children about their work, adding to the excitement surrounding the project.

A live feed of the site can be accessed at the following link: <https://timelapse.regenology.co.uk/api/embedded/1Lv>.

Jason Hewer, on behalf of La Fontaine and Heathfield Academies' Strategic Governing Body

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR STRATEGIC GOVERNING BODY

WWW.LAFONTAINEACADEMY.ORG/GOVERNANCE

WWW.HEATHFIELDACADEMY.ORG/STEP-GOVERNANCE

