



Oldcastle Primary School
Inspire ★ Motivate ★ Educate
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Minutes Curriculum 12/5/21 – Virtual Meeting due to Covid-19

Apologies – Nerys Sales, Rachel Evans, Lynn Walters, Heather Holder, Nia Vaughan may attend late.

Present - Neil Harris, Barrie Lewis, Ceri Littlewood, Sara Peters, Clare Davies, Martha Ace.

1. Minutes/Matters Arising

For Information	To be Actioned
- The minute's form the last meeting have been agreed at the last FGB meeting. Matters Arising – One of the schools longest standing governors and volunteers has sadly passed away, Jane Hughes was a familiar face around the school for both staff and children, often seen reading with children in Key Stage 2. The school is extremely grateful that Jane was able to commit so much time to making Oldcastle a better school, her dedication was wonderful. The chair will write to the family in due course to express this and also with the idea of setting up an award in Jane's memory. Governor Vacancies were discussed, the clerk advised that advice was being sought from the LA with regard advertising community and LA posts. This will be done via the school newsletter and social media. Voting for parent governor posts are under review by the LA and we await further guidance around the process. Discussion around the home learning parent survey, governors agreed the survey was very positive an excellent result for the school. Actions from previous minutes - CD Seesaw review with NV and update governors – not completed, this will be moved forward to the next agenda. NS Wellbeing review with ER and update governors – NS sent her apologies, this will be moved forward to the next agenda. Volunteers requested for a welsh link with the new AOLE, the school confirmed there were no volunteers. NH offered to be the welsh link.	Clare Davies to action
	- Clare Davies to action - Nerys Sales to action - completed - Agreed by all present-

2. Curriculum for Wales Update

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For Information	To be Actioned
- Update provided by CL. - AOLE's come together in a weekly meeting to plan and map the journey, this is going really well, a clear vision is now in place. A slide was presented on the overarching concepts. Staff and children have already had input into the process and CL would now like to invite governors to more in-depth session to look at it in more detail and provide the opportunity for input. The document produced so far is at fairly high level and it has taken a little while to produce, it is a working document and changes regularly. - Staff are currently working through a variety of training programmes designed to aid with the new curriculum i.e. Walk Thru's, Retrieval and everyone is feeding in. - This year's focus of Core Curriculum due to lock down continues, and again all of the information gathered from this is feeding in to the teaching plan for September. Questions – - NH asked when Core Curriculum will end, and what the impact has been? CL advised that it will end at the end of the summer term, but it is going really well, the idea was to provide a boost in the core curriculum and the school has brought in a supply teacher, Jade to work in classes all over the school. The teachers have selected children who need intervention in their class and Jade provides class cover allowing the teacher to be released to carry out the intervention with the aid of two support staff. This is happening every day supporting the children who need it the most. The school is also utilising Daniel as a wellbeing champion right across the school, working with children who need emotional support, we are already seeing results in this area. Bridget and Eira are our learning champions and are making good progress in core areas. The curriculum will return to normal in September but the school will carry forward some of the good elements of the recovery plan where we have seen the biggest impact. Assessment has taken place in the form of NFER testing from year 1 to 6, we have the data from this and children will be reassessed at the end of term to establish progression. This data will also provide a good base for next year as welsh government are not currently collecting data. - CD asked if an update on reports could be provided to governors now? CL advised yes it could be provided now, this year's reports will not report on attainment but will report on achievement. It is felt that it would not be fair to provide attainment data on where the children are against target when they have not been in school. Achievement data shows progress and effort which is a better evaluation following the Covid crisis. - NH asked if parents would be able to request attainment data if they wanted it? CL responded that yes it would be available if requested. NH responded that this was a good strategy, recognising how things have been this past year and encouraging progress and effort. - NH asked when the SIP was being reviewed? CL responded that this would be built into the new welsh curriculum	CL to plan an independent welsh curriculum meeting for governors. Date TBC. – Now complete

meeting, the SIP has been worked on and the challenge advisor is coming in shortly, his input will be added and then the document will be brought to governors for their input. - NH commented on the schools welsh curriculum blog, stating that it was fun, very visual and good to map how the school is driving the changes, NH asked what documentation Estyn will require to show this and does the school have this? CL responded that the blog shows our full journey and documents everything, the blog will provide the evidence as everything is recorded and documented. A little like a portfolio, the AOLE's are planning for the blog to be the jewel in the crown. - CD stated that it would be good to go back to basics as governors would need guidance on the how, why and where of the new curriculum. CL advised that this will be the point of a meeting for all governors purely on the welsh curriculum, it should be clearer after this meeting. This will provide governors with the opportunity to make a valid contribution along with providing practical information on the steps each AOLE is making and how the school is moving forward. This can then be documented within the blog capturing the input made.	
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3. Wellbeing/Barney

For Information	To be Actioned
Update provided by CL, Barney is now 5 months old and spending time with children and classes on a regular basis. Barney also meets and greets every morning and is great with settling the children who are anxious. We have seen an impact with many children where he is involved, he helps keep children in class, helps with behaviour issues and is used as a reward in some classes. The school has been contacted by other schools and wales on line for further details and we are awaiting the article. CD asked if children with allergies had been an issue, CI responded not at all, in fact it had the opposite effect, children who had allergies or were scared of dog's loved spending time with Barney and there had been no issues.	

4. Outdoor learning/Spending

For Information	To be Actioned
- Plan provided for information and overview. A full cost will be put forward at the FGB meeting for approval. - The outdoor classroom will be completed in the next few weeks and the school is looking to develop many other areas working in conjunction with the AOLE's and Sue Rayner our maths advisor to develop outdoor learning in particular. Outdoor learning is not currently planned or used well enough and the new classroom will improve this, the opportunity to offer an area for all foundation phase classes will bring their own classrooms outdoor and result in resources being available to them whenever they need them. Staff have met to ensure the resources chosen are meaningful and purposeful. CD stated it all looked well thought out but some items were duplicated? SP advised there is duplication but the idea is that each class has their own resources for ease and to ensure use. Governors felt this was a positive action and agreed it should be taken to the finance meeting.	

- CL advised that the school was also looking at setting up its own radio station, with aim of improving oracy and literacy, a plan is currently being put together to include costs and the likely impact of developing this and this would be presented to governors at a future meeting. It would encourage creativity, confidence and team work. - Governors agreed to look at this in the future and would like to see how it would be used, the cost and how it would be linked to the new curriculum.	
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5. End of year Reports

For Information	To be Actioned
This was discussed earlier in the meeting.	

6. NFER

For Information	To be Actioned
This was discussed earlier in the meeting, NFER data will be available to governors.	

7. Staffing September

For Information	To be Actioned
A plan was provided and is available to view in the drive.	

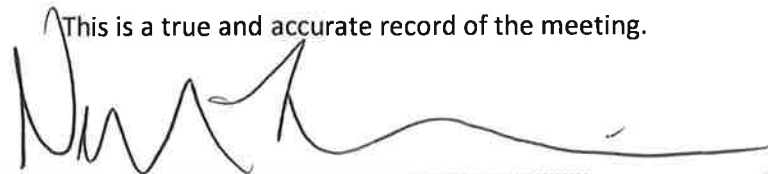
8. Attendance

For Information	To be Actioned
92.8% excluding school closure periods. EWO meetings are being held regularly however the EWO cannot action any long term attendance issues under the current guidance. The school has 3 pupils who have left but are yet to start in their new schools and so are still on the register affecting our attendance rate. - There is also a number of classes with sickness issues affecting the overall figure.	

9. AOB

For Information	To be Actioned
SP provided a Covid update – Covid rates are down in the area and there is a small relaxation of rules resulting in some changes in school, which staff are very happy about! - Class bubbles will remain however children in year group bubbles can mix outside. - Children will be able to sit opposite each other in the canteen and sandwiches, enabling a smoother and shorter dinner service. - Staff can move freely around the school wearing masks. - KS2 can sit in groups in class for project work. The changes will be monitored regularly. CD congratulated Sara Peters on how well the risk assessment had worked. CL pointed out that Martha Ace was doing a fantastic job with in house cleaning and replenishment and said the impact this has had on the school was huge. Well done Martha and thank you.	

This is a true and accurate record of the meeting.



Chair of the Curriculum Committee - Neil Harris

Date

18.06.2021