



Governor Newsletter

May 2018



During May the clerk to the governors spent time in school, talking to groups of children about what it is like to be a pupil at The Blake School.

84 children, with six representatives from every class in the school, chatted, drew pictures and wrote to give governors a really good picture of life at The Blake School.

The children said "The teachers at The Blake School...

"are great" "are fun" "are very kind"

"sort out problems" "are always fair"

"make learning as fun as possible"

"make sure everyone is safe and well-behaved"

"help us understand what we are learning about"

It was clear to the governors that the children at The Blake School are always busy and love the wide range of experiences and rich curriculum to which they have access.

"Being a school councillor"

"Everybody respects you and helps you"

"Children are welcoming and kind"

"We get to do experiments"

"I have lots of friends"

"I like guided reading"

"I like playing outside in the sunshine"

"Sport is amazing"

"Visits are great"

"You get to learn very cool things"

"I love the equipment outside"

"I love lunch – the food is yummy"

"We are very busy"

"It's a safe place"

The children described The Blake School as...

"good" "exciting"

"cheerful" "peaceful" "fun"

"cool" "amazing" "awesome"

"lovely" "safe" "friendly"

"brilliant" "happy" "enjoyable"

"fantastic" "joyful"

If you wish to get in touch with the governors you can leave a message with the school office, or you can contact them via governors@blake.oxon.sch.uk

The children also talked about some of the things they can find harder in school and shared their ideas for what would make the school an even better place.

"The cooks are good and kind but serving is quite hard."

"Sitting on the floor in collective worship is uncomfortable."

"There's a lot of homework these days."

"Break could be a bit longer."

"I would like more opportunities to work outside."

"I think we need more wet playtime games."

"Could there be a cosy space... a place to just go and sit?"

"I would like to do more tennis / contact rugby."

"Could we have an outside water fountain for drinks?"

The governors will be talking to staff about these things and all the other ideas that the children shared, considering how they may be best addressed.

The children also demonstrated how environmentally aware they are. Staff and governors are very keen to help the children work towards their goal of using less plastic in school.

The governor with particular responsibility for safeguarding has also been into school talking to children. Some children were spoken to in small groups, others were asked to complete an NSPCC questionnaire.

The focus of his visit was the school's procedures for ensuring positive behaviour and tackling bullying.

The safeguarding governor reported that children and staff alike are clear about behaviour expectations and sanctions and also that pupils throughout all year groups had a good understanding of the consequences of bullying.

Whilst the safeguarding governor found that the school has already gone a long way in seeking to establish support through individual pupil plans, the sensory garden, refurbished playground environment and lunch time club, he also noted that in particular the playground continues to be a challenging place for some children.

Children knew to speak to a trusted adult in the event of any behaviour difficulties, a message that the school very actively promotes.

Governors and staff will be reviewing the full report from the safeguarding governor and looking in detail at specific recommendations and the children's anonymised comments.

Governor representatives will be available at the summer fair organised by the Friends, 12 – 3pm on Saturday 30th June. We hope you will support this annual event, which raises a great deal of money for the school as well as being a lot of fun. Do come and speak to the governors and find out more about what we do.