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Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Autumn Term newsletter.

Governors are delighted to report our exciting journey towards establishing our Forest School has begun. Mrs Hayman has completed the first stage of her training and will be working towards becoming an accredited Forest School leader in 2018. The whole school will benefit from this initiative and thanks to the very kind generosity of Speen residents John and Gloria Holmes we are now looking at using a site in Gloria's wood, situated in a dedicated woodland area a short walk away from the school as early as the spring term. ...Watch this space...!

To briefly summarise, Forest School is a unique long term, sustainable approach to outdoor learning, which builds confidence, social skills, self-esteem and independence in children through the exploration of, and experiences in the natural world. The Forest School philosophy will sit within and compliment the wider context of our school's curriculum. In the meantime, our regular outdoor learning visits within our picturesque grounds continue.

At the end of the summer term governors conducted several short surveys to consult parents' opinions on:

- A Parenting course
- Homework
- After School clubs

After consultation we had sufficient interest to further investigate the local delivery of a parenting course. Governors are now researching venues and trained personnel to facilitate this in the spring term.

The homework survey concluded that the majority of parents are satisfied with the level of online maths and other homework allocated to the children to support their classroom learning.

After School Clubs survey produced the following results:

- 67% of parents were interested in an after school club
- 33% of parents were interested in before and after school clubs.
- Monday, Wednesday and Thursday were the most popular days chosen
- Between 3 and 4pm was the universal choice for time of activity
- Popular requests for sport clubs included Football, Gymnastics/dance, Rugby, Tennis
- Additional ideas included: Arts and crafts, cookery, maths, science, Eco, technology.
- Respondents were asked how much they were prepared to pay if requested and the amount varied between £3 and £7, dependant on who was delivering the club.

We thank parents for the time taken to complete our surveys and assure you the data is discussed in our meetings and formulates the planning of extra-curricular activities. If a parent would be interested in offering their time for an after school club not currently available, please do not hesitate to email the school with your ideas! Thank you to the wonderful parents who assist already with the Eco club and various other in-school activities.

So far this term groups of governors have met within the following committees:

- **Admissions** – to set our policy for 2019.

- **Pastoral care** – we reviewed amendments to policies for the year, discussed attendance, the forest school initiative, options for parenting courses in the locality, the performance management of the school, our objectives and ideas for the school’s development plan which is reviewed annually.
- **Curriculum** – we discussed current and historical attainment data for pupils and confirmed objectives for our School development plan.
- **Health and Safety** – an internal audit was conducted.
- **General Purposes committee** – We met to discuss our individual self-evaluation form contributions. These are a set of statements allocated to each of us from the Ofsted framework which governors must review annually to enable an effective contribution to the whole school’s development plan.
- **Communications** – to prepare for future promotion of the school in local publications, discuss digital media opportunities and plans for the forthcoming open morning.

Governors also attended the recent Inset day with teaching and support staff to communicate updates, share ideas and discuss contributions to our school development plan. An enjoyable lunch was provided thanks to Mrs Nayna.

We have been busy enjoying lunch with the school council and discussing fun ideas they had for special days at school. These included: Pyjama day, used toy day, bake off day among others! Later today I am looking forward to observing the planned cross-curricular activities within the Healthy bodies themed week.

Training courses and briefings have included: Academy updates for schools, joining Longwick governors at their autumn FGB training course, entitled "Effective challenge and accountability" - how governing boards can professionally and appropriately support their school's senior leadership team in delivering their strategic priorities.

Our termly full governing body meets later this month on 28th November with a statutory agenda and reports from all committees are discussed.

We are still very keen to recruit two Parent Governors and welcome your interest as a vital link between Parents, School and the Governing Body. Please do not hesitate to contact us via the Governors’ email address, shown above, if you have any questions about the role.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and we hope you have found it informative. We welcome any feedback from you on the content of newsletters, or any ideas of items you would like us to cover in future issues via e-mail at the above address or submit your views at any time on <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

With best wishes,



Eamonn Barrett
Chair of Governors

