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**Governors’ newsletter**

THANK YOU

The last few weeks before Easter were a busy time for Orchard Junior School and the Governing Body.

We held interviews for a new SENCO after Sara Atkinson retired after many, many years at the school and we were visited by Ofsted.

The Governing Body would like to take the opportunity to thank the pupils and staff for their hard work and the parents and carers for their support during the recent Inspection. We are pleased with the report that was shared with you all last week.

The first few weeks of this term have not been any less busy. Interviews took place for a new Deputy Head Teacher as Mr Parker is moving on to pastures new. We also received a routine monitoring visit from Hampshire Local Authority to ensure the SATS procedures were being correctly followed. It was noted that the school had an exemplary practice.

With all these “external” people in school, it always makes us so proud when they comment on the children’s behaviour and on the warm and friendly feel that the school has. Well done everyone.

PUPIL AND PARENTS SURVEYS.

The Governors would like to thank everyone who completed the Parent Survey. The results from the surveys are now available on the school website.

At Orchard Junior School, we are continually striving to improve the education and opportunities offered to our pupils. The answers to the questionnaire help the Governing Body to evaluate how the school is performing and can give us a focus for monitoring visits.

In March we had “Governor’s Week” and we were able to come into school and spend time with the pupils and staff. One of the areas we monitored during this week was behaviour. Many governors attended classes, break time and lunchtime to monitor the children’s behaviour in lessons and when moving around the school.

Some of us were able to have lunch with the children. They could choose whether they wanted to sit with a Governor. Thankfully, we were not eating on our own and we all enjoyed the conversations with the children about their learning and experiences at Orchard.

**The Branch** SUMMER TERM 2022

PROGRESS

Governors monitor the school progress data three times a year. We have recently viewed the last set of data from the children’s tests taken before Easter. It is so encouraging to see that the children and staff are working so hard to catch up the missed learning caused by Covid.

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SCHOOL GROUNDS

As we enter the summer term and the weather starts to improve, the school takes on a new life with children and staff able to make the most of and enjoy the extensive grounds around the school.

As Governors we are looking forward to supporting the school as we start to look at the school grounds and the changes that can be made to enhance the play and learning environment for the children.

Some of you will have seen the new playground markings which were planned and funded by the children through the school council.

Look out for more ideas and fundraising from the children as we listen to their voice and start to make more implementations.

**School Website**

Please remember that our school website hosts all the relevant information about the school, including curriculum plans, policies and many other useful things that parents and carers need to know. Please take the time to look through it: [www.orchardjunior.com](http://www.orchardjunior.com)

**SAFEGUARDING**

The Governing Body were very happy to support the School Leadership team with the security improvements made to the school.

We are sure that you have seen the new entrance “pod” and the new fencing around the school.

The work carried out was funded from the school budget and the Governors were happy to approve the significant spend to improve the safety of the children and staff.

**Get In Touch**

If you have any questions or concerns on any topic, or want general information about the Governors, please get in touch with the school office and they will make sure your question is passed on.

Someone will then make contact with you to take things forward appropriately.

It is really important that communication lines are open both ways, so if there is anything concerning you, please do get in touch.