

## AUTUMN TERM 2024

### TURNFURLONG INFANT SCHOOL

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**MINUTES** of the meeting of the FGB Curriculum Focus meeting of Turnfurlong Infant School held via Zoom on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 4.30pm.

#### **PRESENT:**

Mrs L Arnott

Mrs C Austin

Mr R Lloyd (Chair)

Mrs R Ochiltree (Headteacher)

Mrs S Hounsell

#### **APOLOGIES:**

Mr M Mardawan

Mrs K Sargeant

#### **ABSENT:**

Mrs H Burnett

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mrs R Weymouth (Clerk)

#### **ACTION**

#### **1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked Governors for attending. Apologies were noted and accepted.

#### **2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The following items would be discussed under Any Other Business;

- EYFS external adviser report.
- School phones system

#### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declaration of interest declared.

#### **4 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

Circulated prior to the meeting, Governors reviewed and agreed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

#### **4.1 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5 CURRICULUM UPDATE**

Circulated prior to the meeting, the Headteacher advised;

#### **Student Data**

- The data circulated is end of 2023/24 academic year data, EYFS profile data, non-statutory KS1 SATS data and the Year 1 phonics screening data including some Year 2 re-sits.
- The deprivation data included is important as it shows that 66.7% of EYFS children at the school achieved Good Level of Development (GLD) compared to 64% in Aylesbury Town Liaison Group, 54.3% in Aylesbury Vale and 51.3% in Buckinghamshire which is a very positive strength for the school.

**Which schools are included in this group?** Responding, the Headteacher advised all Aylesbury town schools.

- Year 1 phonics showed a similar picture with more children reaching the expected standard than in the same surrounding areas.
- Year 2 (KS1 data) does not have to be submitted to Buckinghamshire Council (BC). However, the school did submit its data, and this has been useful in terms of making comparisons.
- 2023/24 Year 2 had been a challenging cohort, however 42.9% reached Expected in Writing which is higher than BC and again disadvantaged children did better.
- Disadvantaged children also achieved well in Maths, and this has been maintained due to the quality of the school's early years provision.
- The nursery has made the biggest impact on Reading data.
- The school was disappointed with the Year 1 phonics outcome. The 2023/24 Year 2 cohort were academically lower, were not school ready and were at least a year behind in their social development having missed early years education due to the pandemic.

**Do you expect data to increase this year?** Responding, the Headteacher advised yes. It is expected that Year 2 outcomes will be more in line with 2022/23 as they are a more typical cohort with stronger Greater Depth (GD). For Early Years, the school are currently projecting 68% GLD which would be in line with national data for this year. There is however a lot of high level send in the cohort.

### **Curriculum Update**

- ALPS schools met last week to ensure that curriculum maps are aligned and to discuss further collaborative projects. Going forward this may involve a dance festival and possibly a music based event.
- PE is a strength and there are some opportunities for shared work with ALPS.

- The school is currently focusing on medium term planning. An outcome from Ofsted inspection was about enhancing sticky knowledge and recall. The sequencing of curriculum is good, but teachers were not going back and revisiting previous skills before teaching a new skill. To address this medium term planning has a stronger focus on vocabulary and getting children to revisit and remember, using this as a starting point for the new learning.

### **Educational Visits**

- Year 2 are going to the National Paralympic Trust Museum.
- Black History Month organically grew momentum. A number of parents visited school to read to children and could bring their own book or have one provided.
- Parent Involvement Morning was great, and parents commented how special it was and how the curriculum and images used to teach children is representative of the school.
- 50% of families at the school are BAME.

### **External Adviser Nursery Report**

Circulated prior to the meeting, Governors noted the EYFS External Adviser Report.

Governors commented the report is very positive with no concerns noted for safeguarding and or welfare.

The Headteacher advised that the school receive a number of face-to-face visits from BC's EYFS team. They are very good and tailor support to what the school want/need and the school are tailoring this to the quality of adult led input.

The report includes of feedback about the environment which the school have been working on to ensure quality is consistent across the week.

The visit was also useful as it has confirmed the school's judgements of the nursery provision.

Another visit will take place next term as well as a visit from the School Improvement Adviser (SIA).

The SIA will also provide a training session on teacher assessment tasks for Reading and Writing.

## **6 ATTENDANCE DATA**

The Headteacher advised that attendance continues to be a focus on the School Improvement Plan. Expectations on schools to monitor

attendance has increased in line with the DfE statutory guidance “Working Together to Improve Attendance.”

Overall attendance is currently 94.4%. There is a small amount of unauthorized absence and some of this is children that arrive late after the register has closed.

Those children that are persistently absent is due to a child that is on a reduced timetable, one child with 10 days unauthorized absence and 3 children that are below statutory school age.

The school review absence in different groups to track trends.

Attendance data will be provided to Governors every half term and the Headteacher meets with any persistently absent families where there is not a specific reason.

## 7 PARENT AND STAFF SURVEY RESULTS

### Parent Survey

Circulated prior to the meeting, Governors noted responses to the Parent Survey. Governors noted;

- There were 83 responses, which is approximately 1/3 of the parent community.
- The survey is generally positive with some parents commenting that communication could be better.

The Headteacher advised that this is challenging as the school take every action possible to communicate with parents and are unsure what other action can be taken to improve this.

There were some interesting responses from parents about Opal. Some stating that the provision is the school’s greatest strength and some disapproving as their children return from school muddy.

Overall, the survey comments have not provided any tangible actions for the school.

### Staff Survey

Circulated prior to the meeting, Governors noted the results of the Staff Survey.

1/3 of staff have completed the survey which is a shame as the school don’t know the views of 2/3 of the staff body? Responding, the Headteacher advised this may be indicative of staff having lots to do. Staff have a long window to complete the survey and received reminders to complete it.

**Mental health figures seem positive?** Responding, the Headteacher advised that some staff struggle with how their jobs can make them feel at times and this question can also depend on how individuals are feeling when they complete the survey.

**Staff continue to comment on low self-esteem in students.** Responding, the Headteacher advised this is empathetic but also sad and not a great reflection on society. The school is a supportive place for children and lots of actions take place to support their wellbeing and self-esteem.

The Staff Governor commented that there is little else the school can do in this area. TAs work with children on their self-esteem some pupil voice may help to address this.

The Headteacher advised there were also some comments about SEN and the high level of SEN coming to the school. This is the reality of working on an infant school as it can be very challenging when children come with unidentified SEND, where mainstream school is not the right provision, and it is very challenging to secure a specialist provision.

The school have 5 children in Reception that have high level needs with a 6<sup>th</sup> child joining after the Easter break. This is a high level in a cohort of 90 but is similar to other Aylesbury schools.

**Will the school be carrying out a student survey?** Responding, the Headteacher advised this could take place in the summer term. Because of the age of children, they complete the survey with a teacher so this can skew some results.

## **8 GOVERNOR SUBJECT VISIT REPORTS**

There were no reports for discussion at the meeting.

Governors discussed that being mindful of staff workload is important and therefore the Spring term is the best time for Governors to arrange visit to school.

## **9 WELLBING**

### **9.1 STUDENT**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **9.2 STAFF**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**10 POLICIES**

There were no policies for review at the meeting.

**11 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS****Autumn Term:**

Thurs 12th Dec 24 – FGB

**Spring Term:**

Wed 5th Feb 25 – FGB F

Wed 5th Mar 25 – FGB C

Thurs 3rd Apr 25 – FGB

**Summer Term:**

Thurs 15th May 25 – FGB F

Thurs 5th Jun 25 – FGB C

Thurs 3rd Jul 25 – FGB

**12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS****Staffing Update**

The Headteacher advised;

- A TA that was working in Reception has moved across the Turnfurlong Junior School.
- A TA who had been on long term sick leave is back and working in Reception on a phased return.
- A Midday Supervisor who had also been working with a child in the Nursery applied for a TA role and has been recruited on a job share with another member of staff. This is great for her CPD and provides a temporary post to the end of the academic year.
- A member of staff that left at the end of Autumn term 2023 but remained with the school as bank staff has returned.

**Associate Member**

The FGB Chair advised she had circulated to Governors a statement from a potential Associate Member.

Governors discussed and agreed that the candidate has excellent skills and knowledge and would be beneficial to the board.

**ACTION**

It was agreed that the FGB Chair would invite them to the next meeting.

**FGB Chair**

It was agreed that Associate Member voting rights would be agreed at the next meeting.

**Agenda**

**Phone System Quotes**

Further to discussions at the previous meeting regarding the school's new phone system, Governors reviewed the additional information requested and agreed with the schools preferred supplier.

**13 IMPACT OF MEETING**

Governors discussed the following impact of the meeting;

- Phone system contract agreed
- Review of student data and attendance
- Review of staff and parent survey results

**14 CONDUCT OF MEETING**

Governors confirmed that the meeting was conducted in an open manner and that all governors were invited to participate and contribute to discussions. It was confirmed that all members of the Governing Board would have access to these minutes **(with the exception of any Restricted Confidential Minutes)**.

The meeting closed at 19.59pm.

Signed ..... Date .....

CHAIR