



# CPD Federation

## Newsletter

Issue 4.

### CPD SCHOOLS FEDERATION GOVERNING BOARD

The new Governing Board has been getting to know more about Dersingham this term. We were delighted to have such a turn-out at the coffee session most of them attended. We took note of all the comments that were made by you as parents and have started to discuss these with Lando. We want you know that we all have the same goal of making Dersingham and Central Park, the best schools they can be. A reminder Dersingham is expecting an Ofsted Inspection. I am sure we can count on you for your continued support and share the positive comments we heard at the coffee afternoon.



Unfortunately, due to ill-health, one Governor has had to resign. Vicky was our HR specialist and her role as HR Manager at Barclays meant she brought a huge range of skills to the Board. She will sorely be missed and we wish her well. We are currently seeking to recruit a replacement Governor through the service, Governors for Schools. However, if you (or anyone you are aware of) work in HR, and is interested in being on the Governing Board we are keen to hear from you. Staffing decisions play a big part in budget decisions. There is a recruitment process to go through but we would like to draw from our immediate community if possible.

For a number of reasons we are behind with establishing the Parent and Staff Councils at both schools. A couple of Governors are attending a course next half term 'Establishing a Parental Council'. Once this has been attended, we will be in touch.

### LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

I have been working very closely with the Executive Team (Lando, Paul, Rachel and myself) during the first half term. This time has been spent reviewing Teaching and Learning, school internal data and the number of statutory documents we have to have in place. We have also been reviewing the budget.

I would like to say thank you all parents, but especially those at Central Park, for formally acknowledging the role of all three Associate Headteachers. They are responsible for the operational, day to day running of the school—dealing with parents and staffing issues. I appreciate that they have become your main point of contact when required.

Whilst I work across both schools it means that I am not as visible to many of you. However, I am always contactable and if there is a matter that needs to be brought to my attention then do contact my PA (Alix Williams) who will pass on the information, arranging a meeting if required.

Can I also say a big thank you to the rest of the leadership team in each school for stepping up into their roles; especially at Dersingham where Lando has been on jury service for a couple of weeks.



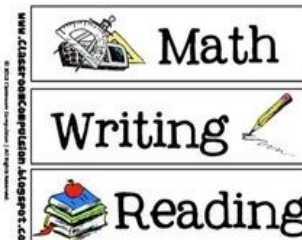
### BUILDING WORK

Once again, apologies for any inconvenience caused by Dersingham opening a day late due to building work over-running. Both schools had building work that has improved the Early Years environment. At Central Park were so lucky to have been chosen by the LA and DfE for the Nursery expansion. The building is looking wonderful and I was pleased to hear so many positive comments about the improved provision outdoors. It is a delight to watch children actively using the environment. A massive thank you must be passed on to Danny Graves (the Facilities Manager) for all the work he undertook during the summer to keep improving the school environment. Opening up the Early Years has helped make the provision more relevant at Dersingham.

Enhanced provision for pupils with more complex needs is still on-going at Dersingham and over half-term there should be some further development of the playground equipment at Central Park. Also, the long awaited Reading Bus will be on site in the coming weeks and we look forward to developing that into a safe, comfortable space for children to use during break times.

## READING, WRITING AND MATHEMATICS

You will understand the need for children to do well in their basic literacy and numeracy so that they can build up to more complex learning. The National Curriculum has increased the challenge by the time children leave primary school. A number of children still reach Year 6 not knowing their time-tables, have poor handwriting and / or unable to understand what they are reading, even if they can read the words. There should be a 3-way relationship to support learning—the child willing to learn, the staff planning to meet their needs and the family to practice things at home. We would appreciate you ensuring your child completes their homework when it is set. On nights where there is no specific homework, encouraging children to learn their times tables off by heart, hearing them read and asking them questions about the text is just as important.



## 2019 – 2020 SCHOOL DATES

The Governors agreed the dates for the next academic year. They should be on each school's website for you to see. In the new academic year the school year starts on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 for pupils and end on Friday 17th July 2020. Please note these dates as we expect any holidays to be taken out of term time.

## PARENTS' EVENINGS

It has been great to see so many parents turn up to meet their child's class teacher this term. If you did not get to see the teacher during the arranged time please make every effort to arrange a conveniently mutual time to talk with them. It is important you know what you can do to help your child as well as share your information.

## SCHOOL BUDGETS



Parents at Central Park will remember 18 months ago we sought your support to oppose cuts to education. Thank you for that; Stephen Timms MP raised our concerns to Parliament.

However, no-one could have missed the news and announcements to increasing budgetary pressures on schools again recently. Both schools were relying on a small carry forward to balance their budget for 2018/19 and maintain similar staffing levels to support your children. At both schools the budget is vulnerable with a projection of end of year balances being the lowest they have ever been and receiving less money in future years. We will continue to keep you informed of the budget position as the year go on.

This does mean though the schools are having to prioritise, and think carefully about, how they spend their money. The level of resource is likely to reduce, staff will need to be aligned to new priorities and we will be asking you more and more for support for activities to take place. Many companies (especially national and international) will have a corporate community engagement strategy and they expected to support their communities, through outreach projects and corporate events. If any parents work in companies (big or small) with volunteer programmes or sponsoring opportunities we would love to hear from you / them. I know either school can come up with a number of projects we would be interested in sharing with you that are no longer affordable within school budgets.



## NEXT TERM

Having established a programme of work with the Executive Leadership Team this half-term, I look forward to being able to see many of you in and around both schools in the coming months. The second term builds up to a number of end of term events to celebrate Christmas and I hope as many of you as possible can attend the events we put on. Have a lovely half term break.

Darren Williams, Executive Headteacher