

## Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: High Bickington LGB

Date of meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020, 6.00pm

Attended by (all virtually): Susie Kevern, Jane Adams, Helen Carn, Helen Rowden, Claire Large, Rhian Nicholas (from 6.31pm), Verity Goss (clerk)



### Brief overview of discussion

#### Procedural items

##### Welcome and apologies

SK welcomed all to the meeting, stating it would be a short meeting to update governors on the current situation in school. Apologies received from Ian Thomas and Rob Norton.

##### Declaration of Business Interests

None declared.

##### Approve minutes of previous meeting

Minutes agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. Noted HC had sent apologies to the last meeting but these had been sent to the wrong e-mail address so had not been received.

##### Matters arising from minutes

None.

##### Other matters brought forward

None.

##### Correspondence

None

#### Monitoring and Accountability

##### Update on 2019/20 school year to date / Plans for September

Currently HB school was open to children in pre-school, Reception, Y1, Y6 and Keyworker children, and was full in all 'bubbles'. SK informed governors that

the current plan was that all children would return to school in September. Brayford and UMBERLEIGH schools had already been able to open to all their year groups as class sizes were small.

Class three (Y3/4) would be the biggest class next year, as a result of this class two and class three would be swapping classrooms. Mrs Game had returned after her maternity leave, and would be teaching class one in a job share with Mrs Kennard. No other changes to staffing.

SK stated that although plans could be made for re-opening in September in line with government guidance, it would not be known how well these would work in practise until the children returned – risk assessments would be continuously revisited and updated as needed. SK informed governors of the large number of updates coming out from the DfE/Babcock/DTSA. Governors recognised that schools had not known of government plans until they were released to the general public.

Children who had remained at home continued to have work provided for them, which was very similar to the work taking place in class.

SK informed governors that the safeguarding workload for staff had increased over lockdown, with new cases as well as those who were already a concern. A number of families across the trust had found the situation very difficult. SK explained the support staff had offered to these families.

There would need to be an emphasis on personal and social skills when children returned in September – it was expected that the first week would likely be a reminder of what school was like.

Class Two – opportunity for use of outside space when the children were in the main building discussed. Staff were aware that children would need transition of spaces, especially for those moving up from Class One. Use of space would be monitored.

SK informed governors that the funding applied for to extend the new site building had been rejected. Agreed this was a disappointing result.

RN joined meeting 6.31pm.

RN confirmed that although the move of classrooms was necessary due to cohort size, staff had carefully considered the use of outside space, and had plans in place to facilitate outside learning.

Pupil numbers – 11 children were leaving from Y6, 7 would be starting Reception in September. There had been several enquiries in recent weeks from families looking to move to the area.

Parent Forums – had previously been held at High Bickington, but had not really happened over the past year. Agreed it may be a good idea in September to encourage parents to get in touch by e-mail with any concerns/comments on how things were working to help parents feel comfortable that they were still part of the school community. Importance of weekly newsletters agreed.

It was felt that parents may feel anxious due to their children missing so much school – reassurance would be needed that their children would be supported to catch up.

RN informed governors that the government was funding Google Classroom for schools who did not already have it, which would give the school more resources to use should there be a further lockdown in the autumn.

JA reported on a visit she had done to observe Adam Northmore in his NQT year, and of key questions she had asked about how he was supported and monitored. AN had reported that he had felt very well supported. RN stated that AN had done very well in his NQT year – next year he would be teaching a Y4 class at Pilton, which would be a good experience for him. RN confirmed that passing the NQT year was not affected by lockdown.

RN informed governors that Ofsted would not be resuming normal inspections until after Christmas.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November, 6.00pm.