Thursday 14th November 2013

First meeting as Chair of Governors (RW) with the Headteacher (NO).

Discussed our thoughts on the way forward, with a far greater emphasis on the understanding of the Governors, the restructure of the Governing Body, how the school works, understanding of pupils’ progress (using the evidence from school and National evidence), to be able to understand the data and then ask the right questions. We will have fortnightly meetings to discuss school’s progress or any arising issues.

Friday 22nd November 2013

Core Group Meeting (the Local Authority (LA), Headteacher (NO), Deputy Headteacher (CG), Chair of Governors (RW), Vice-Chair of Governors (IW) and an external consultant). Day in school monitoring teaching & learning, pupils’ progress and actions taken since our September Ofsted visit.

Thursday 28th November 2013

RW joined NO and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT – CG, TH & JH) for their weekly meeting. These meetings include: training, pupil progress discussions, planning, review, reading from professional documents and general talk about the school and staff well-being.

Monday 9th December 2013

Walk around school with NO: looking at general layout of the teaching areas, how they can be improved, discussions about new bookcases, office furniture needed to give school more space and general tiding up of certain areas. There are areas in school not used to their potential, for example; the kitchen, this will be added to the Spring 2014 governor agenda.

Tuesday 10th December 2013

Met with Roy Bowers HMI together with Vice Chair, Ian Whetton. Both Ian and I were left in no uncertain terms about what was expected of us and the Governing Body, something we understood and are both willing to undertake.

Wednesday 11th December 2013

First Governor Achievement Committee meeting – following the restructuring of the Governing Body

Shaun Smith (Entrust – LA advisor) gave an hour talk on RAISEonline. The National data about our school, that is used by Ofsted to judge school’s performance. This was the first time we could get to grips on what was required and needed as a governor; in terms of the document and how to use it to support and challenge school’s performance, a brilliant insight on how to understand the data.

Thursday 12th December 2013

Riverside Church 9.30am

A quite outstanding Christmas production from Class 1 & Class 2. All fully engaged and it showed in their performance – well done.

Thursday 12th December 2013

Met with IW, an external consultant and NO for the Headteacher’s Performance Management review and target setting meeting.

Monday 16th December 2013

Met with NO and SLT for their weekly meeting.

Thursday 9th January 2014

Photos at school

I arrived at 8.00am to watch the arrival of the children and to see the Breakfast Club in action. The interaction, behaviour and organisation of the start of the day was outstanding in all aspects. Prams coming into school for the Nursery children were a little cumbersome and could be an issue with safety in the entrance to school. I pointed this out to staff, who explained that it was an ongoing situation, which is being monitored and discussed with parents. The children all entered school in an orderly way, putting their coats up and found their way to their classrooms.

Wednesday 16th January 2014

First Behaviour & Safety Committee meeting, followed by the first Leadership & Management Committee – following the restructuring of the Governing Body

Friday 24th and Saturday 25th January 2014

Had an exchange of emails with Andy Chell, from the National Leader of Governance Programme. A meeting will be arranged in the next couple of weeks to discuss supporting me in my role as Chair of Governors and our drive to ensure school makes good to outstanding progress.

Monday 27th January 2014

Met with NO and SLT for their weekly meeting.

Tuesday 28th January 2014

I met with Roy Bowers from HMI, who had come to look around the school following his 10th December visit to ensure school were working on their actions and proposed plans for improvement. He had spent some 3 hours with the children and staff, before my arrival. After a good discussion, with NO, CG and I, he confirmed our thoughts and evaluations that the school was continuing to move in the right direction. He was pleased with the progress being made and the learning he had seen during his visit today. Well done to the staff team and children.

Thursday 13th February 2014

I met with NO after school to discuss various subjects; I was delighted to hear that the whole school had settled in well after the Christmas break and there was excellent learning throughout the school – feedback from this week’s Pupil Progress Meetings (where NO and CG meet with every class team to discuss every child and their progress each half term).

I discussed the Pupil Premium analysis and closing the gap between Non Pupil Premium and Pupil Premium children in school and how the money Is been spent, to close the gap further to the benefit of the whole school.

Discussion was had with regard the meeting for the 14th to be held with ENTRUST and the impact it will have on governors.

Friday 14th February 2014

RW met with ENTRUST for an external review of governors - which was a target from our September 2013 Ofsted visit, together with NO , IW and CG.

A comprehensive and challenging 2 hours was had by all, with the emphasis on raising the standards of governance and moving the school forward together with the head, teachers, pupils and parents. The full report will be discussed at governors later this term.

I hope you all have a fabulous half term break and we’ll see the children back on Monday 24th February.

Wednesday 5th March

I firstly had a meeting with NO to discuss various issues in school; our main focus, as stated in Ofsted, is how as a governing body and a school we build partnerships with parents, thinking about the importance of our duel role and working together for the benefit of the children. Home learning is an important part of the Ofsted framework and we discussed ideas about how this can be achieved, including the children wearing the correct school uniform!

e-Safety is another important issue raising concerns in school, particularly where the children are using online gaming, chat rooms and social networking sites, a long discussion followed about the support school can offer parents.

The SLT meeting then continued with NO, CG, TH and JH finishing at 5.45pm, this was an extremely full meeting which included: the new Ofsted paperwork, Dyslexia Friendly verification day, maths planning and book scrutiny work and other issues in school. It is apparent of the total commitment the staff have to the school and I found the meeting thoroughly absorbing.

March/April 2014

March and April have been a busy time in school with various committee meetings for governors to discuss all aspects of school life. These have been backed up by a visit from Staffordshire County Council, whom monitor the progress school are making and the actions put in place over the Spring term. I am delighted they are behind the exciting strides that the school have taken and continuing to take.

Engaging all parents in Home Learning, reading and supporting their children with their spellings is an area of improvement that school and the governing body would like to work on for the new academic year. We wish to thank parents for the work, encouragement and support they already give to their children but also try to encourage and ensure that all of our parents are fully engaged with their child’s learning, with this in mind we have a number of meetings planned to look at this issue. The findings I will share with you over the coming weeks.

Mr Whetton and I have also been on some inspiring governor training in Tamworth during March.

Summer term 2014

This term has been exceptional on so many fronts. Apart from the committee meetings, when we met to discuss all aspects of the school, we have also had a highly important e-Safety briefing, which was attended by the whole staff team and Governing Body. This is something, together with the school team, we as governors feel very strongly about and the need all parents and children to be aware of, in order to ensure they are safe online.

The level of success the children have achieved this year is something to be very proud of also! This does not happen by chance, but is down to the dedication of Mrs Oliphant and her staff, the children taking everything on board, parental and Governing Body support and everyone moving forward together as one happy family reaching these fabulous heights.

The musical Oliver was outstanding and the beaming faces told their own story…

I wish all the Year 6 children every success at their high school, knowing they could not have had a better start than at Holy Trinity.