



An exciting year in our learning adventure



As we reach the end of an exciting year of learning at Raglan we would like to update you on some of the work of the Governing Body and where our journey may lead us in the coming years. 2016-17 has been yet another

busy year in our constant drive for improvement and it is rewarding to see the impact of the hard work and dedication of our whole School Community.

As you will be aware OFSTED returned to Raglan this month and spent two days closely examining our School against a framework for Leadership, Behaviour, Achievement, Teaching & Learning and Early Years. This was a rigorous assessment of our School and the outcomes for our learners. We hope that the full report will be available to share before the summer holidays. We would like to thank the parents and carers that took the time complete the Parent View survey. Your responses were overwhelmingly positive and we truly appreciate your support.

During the year we have continued to focus on our vision of a creative, aspirational and inspiring learning adventure at Raglan and the introduction of the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) has developed learning opportunities for both students and staff. We hope you have had the chance to experience some of the engaging learning that is taking place in assemblies and exhibitions during the year and we would like to applaud our dedicated staff for embracing the new curriculum with great enthusiasm and vigour.

In a climate of reduced real terms funding and dwindling support from the Local Authority, Raglan faces some significant challenges over the coming years and the Governing Body are working hard to ensure that our School continues to improve and provide our children with the learning opportunities they deserve.

Thank you for your support this year and we look forward to continuing our journey together.

Scott George
Chair of Governors

New faces

Raglan were delighted to welcome some new faces to the Governing Body this year:

James Faiers

Appointed: 22nd November 2016,
4 year term

James is a mathematics teacher at Dulwich College where he has taught for four years. As well as teaching mathematics he works in the boarding house and coaches the basketball team at the College. James lives in the local community near to Raglan Primary School and in his spare time he enjoys playing and watching rugby and basketball and is an avid cook.



We are very fortunate to have James as a Governor. He brings a wealth of experience and another perspective on teaching and learning."

- Kath Margetts, Headteacher



I am very excited to be working with Raglan in the coming years and getting more closely involved in the various different aspects of the school, lending my expertise where I can and learning as much as possible so that I can be an effective and well-informed governor."

- Jess Benning

Jess Benning

Elected: 6th June 2017,
4 year term

Jess has two children at Raglan and is, herself, an ex-pupil. As a result she is passionate about the future of Raglan Primary School. Jess has worked in education administration for the past decade including five years doing pre-school administration. She has also recently retrained as a psychotherapeutic counsellor for both adults and children. Mental health, and specifically children's mental health, is a subject close to her heart. When she has any spare time she likes to read, go to the theatre and visit new places.

Working together



There have been significant developments in education in the local area in the last year. Vice-Chair of Governors, Scott Pinder, provides an update on the Governors' strategic plans.

The state of play in Bromley

Last year we updated you on how, despite the Government's softer push on academisation, Bromley schools are almost exclusively academies. This has meant that the need to work with other academies has been crucial given withdrawal of services by the Local Authority.

What has Raglan been doing?

Raglan has a strong network of schools we collaborate with for things such as moderation of work, sharing best practices and continuing professional development

for our teachers and staff. Like many schools in the area, we have been considering the advantages of a more formal collaboration with other schools.

What is a "MAT"?

A MAT (Multi Academy Trust) is a group of academies that come together under one structure to provide support and services to each other on a more formal basis. There are many additional advantages of sharing resources including, most importantly, increased focus and resources for the development of teaching and learning.

Has Raglan been exploring these opportunities?

Yes. We have been exploring all of our options. Whilst there are benefits of stronger collaboration we must also be mindful that we also want these to fit with our Ethos and Vision at Raglan. Raglan is already part of the ALC (Academy Learning Collaborative), a group of nine Bromley schools, however the majority of schools in the ALC are leaving to form their own MAT. The Governors did not feel that the model proposed by this new MAT was right for Raglan and so we decided not to participate and explore other options.

What is the latest position?

As stated in our recent letter to parents, for some time we have had a very strong relationship with two schools in Orpington, (Crofton Infants and Crofton Juniors, known collectively as Connect Schools Academy Trust - CSAT). The Governors have decided to enter into due diligence (more formal research by both parties) into whether forming a MAT with CSAT is in the best interests of both parties.

Has a decision been made?

No. This is only research and does not predetermine an outcome however we feel that the benefits of doing such a project are in the best interest of our School given the current educational landscape and our aims for exceptional learning. From a day to day perspective, there would be little change to the way Raglan will operate if it joins the MAT.

What next?

We will keep you informed of developments, and will be holding a meeting regarding the potential MAT conversion early in the autumn term that will be open to all. If you have any questions in the meantime, please direct these to our Chair of Governors, Scott George, at chair@raglan.bromley.sch.uk.

Raising the roof... again!



Helena Smith of the Building and Sites Working Group looks at some exciting changes to the fabric of our School.

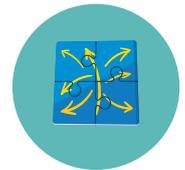
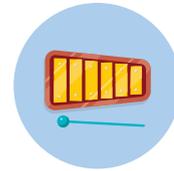
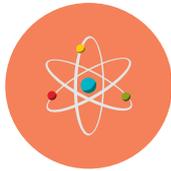
Over the last year a rolling programme of redecoration has taken place and we hope you've all noticed how much fresher and brighter the hallways and classrooms are looking. Our new library has also had a makeover and is now a much more welcoming space for the children to explore and research their learning. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to sort and catalogue the books for its relaunch. On a less glamorous, but very practical note, the drains have also had a makeover with new covers fitted to assist with long term maintenance and remedial works carried out on the boiler to reduce noise.

We are delighted that a funding bid for the replacement of further sections of the roof was successful. This work will include the replacement

of a large section of the KS1 roof which has been deteriorating in recent years. The work will be carried out over the summer and is due to be completed in time for the new academic year. At the same time, we will also be replacing and repairing some of the windows in KS2, increasing our environmental efficiency and creating safer and warmer classrooms.

Work will commence this summer on the creation of the Raglan Early Years Hub, bringing together the Nursery and the EYFS environments in adjoining areas and allowing staff to work more closely together. The Nursery will be relocated to the space which was previously room 18 and changes will be made to access and facilities to provide a safe and supportive atmosphere for our youngest learners. The LLC will be moving in where the Nursery once was providing them with a direct link with outdoor learning space. This exciting development will be completed over the summer ready for the start of the new academic year in September.

Learning adventures



Jeremy Cox, Chair of the Achievement and Curriculum Committee looks back on a busy year of learning at Raglan.

Learning at Raglan has continued to develop at a tremendous pace. As Governors, we have seen genuine focus and determination by the staff to develop an engaging, inspiring and thought-provoking curriculum built on strong foundations. Learning really is for everyone, and this has been evident with the introduction of the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). All stakeholders have recognised that the learning environment has lifted to a new level, with creative topics, lessons and home learning tasks. Feedback from pupils, staff and parents has been overwhelmingly positive. The IPC has enabled our pupils to become confident, curious and questioning, preparing them for an ever changing and complex world.

The staff have continued to maintain very high expectations, focusing on areas of development, which has led to extremely positive outcomes for all students in terms of their progress. Not only have we seen a new curriculum this year, but also a new assessment system which has been carefully and sympathetically managed by Ms Margetts and Miss Wood. Leadership has consistently been complimented in external reviews that took place throughout the year and expectations have remained clear that learning is at the forefront for all at Raglan.

Governor visits have taken a more strategic approach this year focusing on year groups and taking place termly with the intention of building strong relationships

with staff and pupils to provide a better understanding of the learning taking place. We have seen outstanding improvements in the marking and feedback in a range of books, all of which have enabled students to move forward. The new library, with its fabulous new collection of books, new reading records and reading breakfasts have helped to lift the profile of literacy and a focus on maths mastery will continue to see pupils developing deeper understanding and application to challenging tasks. The use of modelling, split group teaching and manipulatives are just a few of the teaching and learning strategies that have enabled the pace and challenge of learning to progress.

The range of trips and visits has increased across all year groups, this has been welcomed by all. The language provision continues to be a real strength and Ms Burgess and her team continue to work very hard to provide high quality personalised teaching. The support staff and in particular teaching assistants continue to aspire to provide the best level of support in the classroom for our pupils.

We are conscious as a team that there is still more to do at Raglan, yet this is a good moment to pause and reflect on an incredibly challenging year and to highlight the hard work and dynamic community which is Raglan Primary School. My team and I look forward to seeing learning at Raglan continue to thrive next year and wish all a well-earned rest this summer.

We hope you have found our newsletter interesting and informative. The Governing Body welcomes any ideas you may have around newsletter content and/or for the school and encourages you to share these by emailing our Chair of Governors, Scott George at chair@raglan.bromley.sch.uk