

School Governor Newsletter January 2020

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the spring term. I hope you had a good Christmas break.

The first meeting of term for the school governors will be on 28th January in school hours. We will spend the day in school so we can see first-hand the actions discussed at our meetings and the impact they have. It also gives us a chance to meet pupils, staff and parents so please look out for us at drop off and pick up – governors can be identified by their black and white lanyards.

This newsletter contains more information about what the governors will be looking at on this day, as well as changes in the governing board.

Thanks to all of you who completed our survey last term. We will be looking at the answers in our next meeting so watch this space!

As per normal your first point of call for questions and feedback on the school is your child's teacher or the school office, but do feel free to speak to any of the governors if you see us around.

Wishing you and your families a happy new year.

Teri Viney

Chair of Governors

Governor changes

New Governor – Gareth Evans

Gareth Evans joins the governing body this month as a co-opted governor. Previously Gareth has been chair of governors at another school, and he will be boosting the boards financial skills.

Governor Retirements

Paul Lock and Clare Walker have recently resigned as governors and we'd like to thank them both for all they have done in the role to support the school and help the rest of the board.

Governors vacancies

We currently have three vacancies for new governors (there are 14 governor spaces in total).

One of these is for a parent governor so we will write to you shortly asking for nominations.

For the other positions we are looking for someone from the community. Although parents may occupy these roles if they can fill a skills gap on the board we are looking for at least one non-parent to provide some independence.

Clare was our SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) governor so we would like to fill one of the positions with someone interested in taking on this role. Clare will provide some handover with her successor.

Training is available for all areas of governor work and it is a great opportunity to impact the school and outcomes for pupils as well as build your own skills.

If you would like more information please get in touch via the school office. If you know anyone who might be interested please encourage them to apply too, again they can get in touch via the school office.

Governor Day – Curriculum focus

School staff and senior leadership team are constantly looking to improve outcomes for pupils at the school.

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At our meetings, the governors pick a small selection of actions to focus on during our school visits. This year we are looking at:

- English – reading and development of inference skills.

Inference makes the text more personal and memorable. Once pupils have mastered good inference skills they will take a greater understanding from what they are reading and also find reading more pleasurable.

The governors will have a chance to see how changes to the guided reading sessions are impacting the pupils in this area.

We have also joined the staff at recent insets to see teacher training on reading. We also had a sneak preview of some of the new books available in the library and there are some great books in there for your children to enjoy at home.

- Maths – we are looking to see greater use of concrete resources to develop the conceptual understanding of maths. This makes the mathematical facts and methods easier to remember and use.
- Personal development – mental health and wellbeing.

We are currently considering mental health and wellbeing for both staff and pupils. When we visit in January we will be looking at how the mindfulness activities available in the classrooms first thing in the morning help children prepare for the day

ahead and equips them with a skill for the future.

We have created action plans within the School's Strategic Plan. One objective across all subjects is to develop subject specific skills, knowledge and understanding across the school. This term, governors will have a chance to learn more about how prior learning is linked to new knowledge in history and geography during our school visit.

Throughout the day, individual governors will also spend a bit of time on other areas we look at regularly such as: health and safety, safeguarding, finance, attendance and behaviour.