



GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Message from Gill Forrest - Chair of Governors

Well, we are over half way through this year and doesn't time fly. There have been some changes to the governing body this year which we will outline below. Already this year we have met and discussed policies, the budget, staffing and the school's development plan.

As a governing body, our aim is to ensure the school continues to provide the best possible education and pastoral care for each and every child. This year the governors will continue to support and challenge Mrs Simpson and her staff to raise the attainment and progress of all children in the school. It's important that we share what the governing body is doing and how it helps shape the future of the school and build on the 'Good' Ofsted inspection.

Like many schools across the country we face an ever increasing squeeze on our budgets; increased contributions to pensions and national insurance, pay settlements, reductions in funding from government and ever increasing costs. It means we have to work hard to make the school budget stretch that little bit further. Part of the solution is to be creative, making sure our contracts give us value for money and to work in partnership with others to try and help reduce our costs. So, for example as a small school our buying power is less than that of larger schools, and to balance this out we work with a network of small schools in Hertfordshire to try and get together when we are looking at contracts

or new equipment. We always have to balance our ambitions for the school with the limited funds available. School budgets are set for the year based on the number of pupils in the October term. This can and has put extra pressure on us as we continue to grow in numbers throughout the year. Next year we are forecasting 149 children, which will mean we have some more budget which will go towards paying for an extra teacher.

Even with the squeeze on our budget, the latest excellent Key Stage 2 SATS results from 2015 show the school is doing really well in helping children achieve their potential.

- ✓ 100% of our pupils achieved Level 4+ in Reading and Writing
- ✓ 93% achieved Level 4+ in Maths
- ✓ 47% achieved Level 5 in Reading and Maths
- ✓ 27% achieved Level 5 in Writing

(Level 4 is the national expectation for the end of Key Stage 2, Level 5 exceeds the national expectation for the end of Key Stage 2).

In this newsletter you'll find a brief outline of the Governing Body, what we've done so far this year and what the plans are for the remainder of the year.

Do remember that the governing body would be pleased to hear from you about any aspects of the school you feel need bringing to our attention. We can be contacted through the school office and will get together to discuss anything essential or raise matters at our meetings.

Who are the Governors?

There are different categories of governor, although all governors have the same roles and responsibilities once part of the governing board. Two of the governors are parent governors who are appointed to represent the parents and carers within the school and are elected by them. As a church school, our foundation governors are appointed by the diocese. We also have a staff governor and Local Authority governor.

Headteacher	Alison Simpson
Chair of Governors	Gill Forrest
LEA	Ted Kavanagh (New)
Foundation	Dr Derek Adams
Foundation	Rev Susannah Underwood
Foundation	Gail Elliott
Foundation	Barbara Clarke
Foundation	Katie Wright
Foundation	Alice Newbon (New)
Parent	Debbie Kirby
Parent	Nigel Marsden (New)
Staff	Vacancy
Clerk/Link	Sue Corlass

What the governing body does

The role of the governing board is a strategic one, its key functions are to:

- set the aims and objectives for the school
- set the policies for achieving those aims and objectives

- set the targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives
- be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher (a critical friend)

Governors meet every half term and have regular committee meetings where they focus on specific areas.

Summary of each committee

The **School Improvement Committee** monitors and evaluates the school's progress in teaching the curriculum, supporting special educational needs and works with Mrs Simpson to identify priorities for the School Development/Improvement Plan.

The **Resources Committee** monitors and reviews all policies that deal with finances, premises and resources and also works with Mrs Simpson on the requirement of the School Development/Improvement Plan. The work includes scheduling checks and maintenance of safety equipment, as well as routine maintenance of other systems such as heating and air conditioning. The committee also helps to draw up the school's three-year plan in respect of building requirements and then assists in translating the plan into reality.

What Ofsted said: "Governors are knowledgeable about the school because they visit it regularly to check its performance and work closely with the headteacher and staff. Governors know how well the school is doing and how it compares to other schools nationally. They successfully completed the external review, recommended by the previous inspection, and are now operating efficiently. They review the impact of teaching and check the school's progress towards the targets set out in

development plans. They use this information effectively to hold the leaders to account for the school's performance and when making decisions on teachers' pay awards. Governors monitor the impact of spending effectively. For example, they check impact of the primary sport funding on pupils' health and well-being, and the impact the pupil premium funding has on the achievement of disadvantaged pupils. Governors ensure that the procedures for safeguarding pupils meet requirements."

Recent activity

Over the last term and a half, the Governors have spent a lot of time updating the School's policies. The resources committee has also conducted an annual inspection of the exterior fabric of the building, arranged for a tree close to the school to be thinned out, and responded to a failed controller on the boiler. Each Governor also has links to year groups and to subjects and the schedule of monitoring visits have started in earnest. We have given notice to the current school meal providers, and are currently procuring a new catering company. A few of our pupils, governors and staff went to visit a school currently using the caterers we are looking to use,

The governors are each linked to a year group and advance each year with the same cohort.

Year	Year Governor
Early Years	Alice Newbon
Year 1	Gail Elliott
Year 2	Debbie Kirby
Year 3	Barbara Clarke
Year 4	Derek Adams
Year 5	Katie Wright
Year 6	Nigel Marsden

and everyone really enjoyed the quality and taste of the food. There was a lot of choice of tasty, healthy meals to really tempt the children.

Planned activity

The main task for the rest of the year will be to consider the implications of the increase in pupils we will experience in September 2016 and to ensure that these plans are sustainable and set us up well for the future. We are working closely with Mrs Simpson to understand the impact of the numerous changes that have come in with the new curriculum and to support the staff team as they implement them throughout the school.

In addition, each governor is linked to a subject area to undertake formal and informal monitoring. Governors take part in training to develop their skills in various aspects of the role, including monitoring.

Subject Areas	Staff Co-ordinator	Link Governor
Assessment	Alison Simpson	Gill Forrest
Inclusion	Kelly Fairhall	Debbie Kirby
Child Protection/ Safeguarding	Alison Simpson	Gill Forrest
EYFS	Kelly Fairhall	Alice Newbon
SENCO	Kelly Fairhall	Debbie Kirby
RE	Alison Simpson	Rev Susannah Underwood
Computing / ICT	Lynda Cowler	Nigel Marsden
Mathematics	Lynda Cowler	Katie Wright
PE	Lynda Cowler	Gail Elliott
Science	Lynda Cowler	Derek Adams
English	Marie Shortland	Barbara Clarke
Art	Alison Simpson	Gail Elliott
Geography	Lesley Gilfrin	Debbie Kirby
History	Lesley Gilfrin	Debbie Kirby
MFL	Rachel Barrie	Alice Newbon
DT	Marie Shortland	Barbara Clarke
PSHE	Alison Simpson	Katie Wright