

Walsgrave Governors' Newsletter

April 2019



Main areas for monitoring during Spring 2019

(Linked to School Development Plan)

- To maintain and increase the number of children passing/ achieving ARE in Year 1/ 2 Phonics, Year 2 & 6 statutory tests by reviewing children's progress from September 2018.
- To look at the impact that Thrive has via small-group, 1:1 and whole class activities to improve children's behaviour and well-being.
- To increase the number of children passing the Year 1 Phonics test and the Year 2 Phonics retake by upskilling staff, careful provision mapping of interventions and increasing parental support.
- To ascertain the impact of Group Reading, whole-class reading, engagement of reading diaries and any 1:1 in place for children in Years 3 & 4.
- To review Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) provision/ case studies in practice to ascertain where provision is working and where alternative provision is being sought.



Welcome from the Chair of Governors **Mr Don Pendergrast**

Hello and welcome to the spring term edition of the Governor Newsletter.

Hopefully, from the additional information above, you will see the different areas Governors have been focusing on during their visits this term. (All of these directly link to Walsgrave's School Development Plan 2018-19.)

It was lovely to hear Governor's feedback from the Tea & Talk event in January. Lots of positives and ideas for how we can develop things further for our children.

During my visits to school this term, I have been focusing the latest attainment information for children across the school, looking at areas of strength and development points for the summer term. In light of the new proposed Ofsted schedule for September 2019, we really do want to make sure we get the balance right between Maths and English work and the rest of the school curriculum.

Finally, it was lovely to have members of the School Council feedback their views of Walsgrave at our last Governor's meeting. They are articulate, kind and caring young people who want the very best for themselves and Walsgrave.

Rev. Claire McArthur Co-opted Governor (Vice Chair)



Another good term at Walsgrave. As a Governor, I was lucky enough to go with our Year 5 children to Kingswood. We had such a good time with the sun shine all the time we were there. Our children were a delight and it was great to see them step out of their comfort zones and have a go at climbing the wall, Jacob's ladder and zoom down the zip wire! I have also been in to assess reading in Key Stage 2 to make sure that all levels are catered for and there is differentiation in teaching. I look forward to my visit in the summer term when I will be looking at developing the reading scheme resources and class texts for 2019-2020 academic year.

Mr Vipin Sylaus
Co-opted Governor



This half term I had a visit to Walsgrave to review the mid-term data (Attainment & Progress) with Mr Darling.

In particular, we looked at SATs data in Year 2 and 6. I had few queries about areas where data has shown lower percentages than the previous report. Mr Darling explained how the variations are caused, how the targets set and what is being done to improve children's individual attainment. I can see how the extra support is being used on children who are on the cusp of age-related expectations. I am sure the action plan will have a good impact and we will see the results by the end of the summer term.

Rev. Malcolm Tyler
Foundation Governor



My weekly assemblies this half term have focused upon forgiveness and justice. I have been impressed by the children's responses and how they have been trying to put these values into everyday situations they meet. As Governors, we appreciated the feedback from parents at the last Tea & Talk session. Always great to hear first-hand parents/ carers views of Walsgrave C of E Academy.

The highlight of the term was hearing the School Council present their views at our last Governor's meeting. They clearly articulated what the school does well and how it could be improved further.

Mrs Dawn Keeling
Parent Governor



This term I looked into the provision for children who have additional needs via an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or an Educational Health Care Plan (EHP). The visit was very informative and I could see how provision had been tailored to each individual child. A lot of time and effort was put in by the school with them also making good use of outside agencies. The challenge going forward is doing more with less resource but I could see how the school was rising to this challenge.

Mrs Kasenya Morgan
Co-opted Governor



My focused visit for this term was to review Phonics in Years 1 and 2. I carried out a walk around Year 1 and 2 with Miss Ginger and observed 'live' group sessions where children were really engaged in learning their sounds. Children showed me their Read, Write Inc. books that they take home in addition to their regular reading books. Miss Ginger told me about parent workshops she and the KS1 team have been running with to show them what's happening in school and how they can support their child's phonic learning – the Walsgrave way.

Dr Marianne Trent
Parent Governor



I'm Walsgrave's newest Governor and I have spent this term getting into my stride & learning about all things Governance! I have conducted my first Governor's monitoring visits. My area of responsibilities are: safeguarding, thematic curriculum and with a special interest in mental health due to my day job as a Clinical Psychologist. I have spent time with Michelle & Mr Darling looking at the Thrive programme & also seeing the wonderful results it is achieving for the pupils throughout the school. I also met with Mr Darling to discuss behaviour; this is something we will be continuing next term too. I also spent a day on a new Governor Training course at the Council House. It was a busy day with lots to learn! Having completed the day, I now feel that I know more about being an effective Governor and how to check that we are being strategic and effective as a Governance team. I also especially enjoyed listening to 4 members of the school council present their research within our most recent Governor's meeting. I was impressed with their confidence & professionalism! I don't think I could have done it at their age! I'm looking forward to the upcoming term as part of the Governor's team! Do feel free to speak to a Governor if you see us in school because it's important that we are also representing the views of parents.