

Clifford Bridge Governor Newsletter



Spring term 2019

Excellence at Clifford Bridge Academy



Spring term has felt like a very long one and I think staff, children and parents are looking forward to a well-earned break!

This term governors have been busy with a number of monitoring visits to talk with teachers about the progress that children are making. I hope that you enjoy reading about their visits and activities. As ever, do feel free to contact any one of us via the school office. Have a happy Easter break!

Rebecca Male, Chair

Rebecca Male – Parent governor

I have just returned from a lovely coffee morning at Clifford Bridge for parents of children across the MAT who have Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). Lisa Stevens from Coventry's Complex Communication Team gave a brief informative overview of support for parents of children with Autism. Parents were able to share with each other their experiences of some of those services and their journeys. We are hoping to run more of these SEND coffee mornings and would love to hear from you about what areas you would like us to focus on. As we all realise that there is a growing national crisis in SEND funding we need to look for non-financial ways of supporting SEND families and I hope this initiative can help in that aim. A big thank you to Mrs Collette (SENCO) for organising the coffee morning and to the parents who attended (especially the lady who made the delicious lemon cake). I look forward to meeting more of you at the next meeting.

Earlier in the term I met with Miss Knibbs and Mrs Shergill to discuss the provision for our children with English as an Additional Language (EAL). School data over the years shows that these children make very good progress from their starting points. Miss Knibbs is leading the strategic oversight of EAL with support from Mrs Shergill and Phase and Senior leaders. More interventions will be delivered by Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants, and staff have continue to receive quality training.

Other governor activity this term:

Head Teacher and Chair meeting
MAT Chairs' meeting
Local Governing Board meetings Spring 1 & 2
Coventry Council Governors' Spring term briefing
Directors' Spring term meeting



Shona Johnson
Co-opted governor

Since joining the LGB at Clifford Bridge, I have been on a journey of learning and discovery. From wonderful presentations about how

Pupil Premium spending benefits disadvantaged children, to in-depth analysis of end of Key Stage data, it is clear that all stakeholders have a clear and focused understanding of our school.

Through analysis of the School Development Plan and regular comprehensive Head Teacher's reports, I have gained a clear understanding of key priorities in the school, and how everyone is working to achieve them. Fellow governors have fed back fully on their monitoring visits, giving us all an insight into their areas of responsibility such as Pupil Attendance and learning within the EYFS. Progress and areas for development in all aspects of life in school are communicated clearly to governors, giving us a firm knowledge base for our own questions and lines of enquiry.

In October I attended Inspire Governor Training, where I gained an insight into the shared approach to Teaching and Learning across the schools within the trust. With my focus being on the wider curriculum at Clifford Bridge, this was particularly interesting to me. Curriculum leaders gave fascinating presentations on the inspiring Maths and English curriculum taught across the MAT, and spoke at length about the positive impact this approach has had on pupil outcomes.

My next steps are to attend a presentation from Jo Upton, then conduct a monitoring visit, looking at the breadth and depth of curriculum coverage on offer here at Clifford Bridge. I hope to then feed back at our next LGB meeting, as others have on their area of responsibility.



Nikki Clamp
Parent governor

It's been an interesting for me in terms of my governor responsibilities. I attended some training in February that helped me to identify the role of the governing body in providing effective challenge to support school improvement, the types of questions Ofsted might ask of governors when inspecting a school and the sharing of good practice in relation to governance.

I have also been part of the routine health and safety meetings in school, and have visited the Learning Mentor to look at safeguarding and attendance provision in school. Busy times! I hope you all have a lovely Easter break.



Melanie Taylor
Parent governor

I had the opportunity to attend the new governor induction training in December. This was an excellent course which provided me the a greater understanding of the role, responsibilities and core functions of the governing board and which will help me be a more effective governor.



Ralph Bonnell
Co-opted governor

I have been very pleased to be involved in all the Governing Body meetings this term, and am very excited by the considerable, continued efforts, by all, to make the school an excellent learning environment.

I have visited the Early Years setting and was very impressed with all that is going on. It was very rewarding and encouraging to read the outcomes of the visit to the school, by the Local Authority's own HMI, which certainly endorses the observations that I have experienced.

It was a joy to see the outcomes of the "Oracy Project", showing the talent of pupils even at this early stage of their school life.

Well Done to everyone! Have a lovely and relaxing Easter Break.