

# Governors' Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2011



**Dear parents and friends,**

Another term almost over with the festive season fast approaching. We are looking forward to the school performance in St. Giles church and hope that many of you will be able to join us there on Thursday Dec 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Governors**

As you are aware we appointed two new parent Governors in September; Ben Waymark and Sarah Kelway, whilst Karen Adams is the new Staff Governor. All have taken on their responsibilities with enthusiasm and professionalism.

We have reorganised the Governors' roles into a system which fits in with the latest Ofsted framework and we hope will make best use of each Governor's particular skills and expertise;

### **Governor Roles and Responsibilities.**

**Alison Bennett**- Chair of Governors- school improvement., data, community cohesion, parent engagement.

**Ben Waymark** – Vice Chair – Data, Special Educational Needs, Gifted & Talented, Finance & Personnel.

**Annie Sparrow** – School improvement, Special Educational Needs, Gifted & Talented, Attendance & Behaviour, Child Protection.

**Sarah Kelway** – Community Cohesion, Parent Engagement.

**Graham James** – Health, Safety & Security, Finance & Personnel.

**Mike Clark**- Community Governor

**Meg Slingo** – Community Governor – Early Years Foundation Stage, Curriculum

**Karen Adams** – Staff Governor – School Improvement, Finance and Personnel.

**Annette Yates** – Head Teacher

**Helen Wright** – Clerk to Governors

### **New OFSTED Framework**

From January 2012 there is a new OFSTED Framework for schools to work within. There are now only 4 core areas that a school will be assessed against:

- The achievements of pupils at the school
- The quality of teaching in the school
- The quality of the leadership and management of the school
- The behaviour and safety of pupils at the school

## **School Improvement Plan**

As part of the formal framework in which schools operate we are required to set out a **School Improvement Plan** which details ways in which we would like the school to progress in the future. In order to evaluate progress a number of priorities are set which can be monitored over the course of the year. This year's priorities are as follows;

1. Staff to take part in a professional reflective maths project to enable them to review and develop the curriculum and teaching & learning strategies.
2. Explore new technology & teaching opportunities for ICT and continue to improve our provision.  
This will be through purchasing 15 more laptops for Otters class and video conferencing equipment.
3. Establishing the principles of "THRIVE" throughout the school. This is a way of working which considers the children's emotional wellbeing and its impact on their learning.
4. Exploring and developing collaborations with other schools through sharing resources, professional expertise and curriculum activities.

## **Changes to Key Stage 2 SATS**

Every year in May, children in year 6 sit Government set tests. These tests have been in maths, reading and writing. This year there is no statutory writing test; instead only a teacher assessment level will be reported. However, the school has been selected to sample a new English Writing Test which will be taken by all children in 2013.

## **School Kitchen**

Thankyou to all who have supported the family and community meal days. These have contributed to a successful term for the kitchen which leaves us optimistic for the future. A big thankyou to Bridget for her hard work and initiative, not forgetting the lovely food!

## **Parent Forum & PTA**

It is very important to us that parents feel that they are a part of the school community and that we keep you informed of pertinent issues as they arise. We are currently working on a key information leaflet for new parents and updating the prospectus.

The recent questionnaire has provided useful ideas for future PTA events so watch this space.

If you would like to become involved with either of these groups please speak to Miss Yates, Sarah Kelway or Alison Bennett.

## **Christmas Cheer**

Lots of great things are happening in the lead up to Christmas and hopefully there will be some thing that everyone can be involved with; be it making mince pies, coming to the Christmas performance or joining the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Fair!

We wish you all a very

*MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

*Alison Bennett*

*Chair of Governors*