



Governors Newsletter

2nd Edition January 2017

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight some of the important work that King William Street C of E Primary School Governing Body undertake and update you on recent events.

Latest Governor News

In the first edition of our newsletter Greg Evans explained the role of the Governors. I would like to share with you some of the specific things that your School Governors have been doing and to show how we are involved in the running of the school.

In September at the start of this academic year, I was privileged to take on the role of Chair of Governors, stepping into the shoes previously filled by Greg Evans, during a long tenure for which the school and Governing Body are very grateful. It is now my goal to continue the good groundwork already set and to develop the Governing Body further, to be a strong and pro-active partner in the school's improvement and future. I am very pleased that Greg will remain on the Governing Body in the role of Vice-Chair. For more information about our Governors, please visit the 'Governors' section of the school website. Our Governing Body is made up as follows:

- David Jell – Parent Governor and Chair
- Greg Evans – Co-opted Governor and Vice Chair
- James Neill – Parent Governor and Chair of Finance
- Mrs Clarke – Head Teacher
- Mrs Kearns – Staff Governor (Although Mrs Kearns is currently on maternity leave, she is still an active member of the Governing Body and we thank her for her additional work, particularly with presenting data to the Governing Body)
- Mrs Walsh – Staff Governor
- Julie Eldon – Parent Governor
- Nikki Twine – Parent Governor
- Helen Redhead – Parent Governor
- Rev. Simon Stevenette – Foundation Governor
- Helen Hartnell – Foundation Governor
- Toby King – Committee Member

We are always happy to talk to anyone and are regularly in school, particularly at parent/teacher meetings, church services, fayres and at Friday coffee & cake, which is a great weekly opportunity to come and chat to us – and each other – even if you just want to pop in briefly!

DON'T FORGET:

- For more information on the school, please visit the website www.kingwilliam.swindon.sch.uk
- Visit the Ofsted 'Parent View' site to express YOUR views of the school.
- Coffee & Cake, every Friday in the hall - 8.50am to 9.30am.

So Far This Year

As many will be aware, the school will be having an Ofsted inspection soon, following on from their visit in March 2015 and subsequent (and very positive) follow up interim visit in July of the same year. I would very much encourage all parents and carers to log on to Ofsted's 'Parent View' where you can put forward your thoughts on your school with a few very simple questions. It doesn't take long and is a very important tool on our continual journey of improvement. It can be accessed via the 'Parent View' tab on the Parents heading on the school website. Our goal for the next inspection is to be judged AT LEAST good and we feel we are absolutely on the right path for that to happen!

Our focus has been on monitoring and supporting the school in line with the school improvement plan (SIP), itself borne out of the improvement priorities noted in the inspection report.

- Governors regularly come into school in 'link governor' roles, which mean that Governors are split up to link with specific points on the SIP and report back to the Full Governing Body where work and improvements can be seen and, if necessary, challenged by all Governors. Recently school visits by Governors have focussed on Maths, English, SEN and Early Years – but have also included health & safety, safeguarding and anti-bullying, all very important aspects of school life and high on our list of priorities as Governors of such a family and community orientated school. We are in the process of adapting visits procedures to include more 'pupil voice' conferencing, so that we increase the engagement we have with everyone in the classrooms.
- We have continued to ensure that policies are up to date and relevant to current trends and practice, in particular ensuring that recent updates to national guidance have been put into place and communicated to all. One area where this has recently been carried out is within our Safeguarding Policy, here we had a very positive Safeguarding audit.
- The Governing Body and staff have been engaging more and more with our new school improvement partners to enable the best training, advice and external challenge possible. This has included the appointment of Bill Jerman as our Main School Improvement Adviser and involvement of Liz Hopkins and Marie Svillis who have been supporting the school specifically in Maths and English.
- Staff and Governors have been involved in a very wide range of training opportunities. We are lucky to have support from Swindon Borough Council with training and development for Governors and recently Governors have been able to attend sessions and workshops on areas such as safeguarding, interpreting data, head teachers performance management, leadership development and preparing for Ofsted. All very beneficial for keeping up to date with current information and guidance to, ultimately, benefit the whole school.

Building Improvements

It has been fantastic to see even more improvements to our lovely school. Following the completion of the upstairs corridor we have now seen the replacement of the old doors to each end of the school hall, providing more safety and a bit of soundproofing with a great clean look!

Also, adorning the staircases, are some great new pictures based on each class name which have been put together by Mrs Evans and her team of artistic pupils! They are really striking and make the walk upstairs colourful and interesting!



All best wishes

David Jell

Chair of Governors

