



GOVERNORS' NEWS

Addingham Primary School Newsletter

May 2017

Welcome to your Governors' Newsletter

Chair's Note

I am delighted to inform you that I have been elected to take on the role of Chair of Addingham Governing Body. I have taken on this role from Jo Beecroft who was Chair for many years and I would like to thank her for the commitment she made to Addingham Primary School.

I have been a Parent Governor since 2014 and have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside staff at Addingham. I am pleased to be in a position where I can continue to contribute to the strategic development of the school and support the work of a strong Governing Body.

This academic year has seen us recruit new Governors all of whom bring a wide range of knowledge, expertise and experience to the team. As Governors our role is to both support and challenge and we are committed to undertake these tasks with the best interests of the school, its pupils and the community at heart. We receive training and attend workshops to ensure that we are up to date and best placed to perform our role to the highest standards.

As Chair, I am committed to ensuring that we have a robust and cohesive Governing Body who are able to support the school in moving forward and securing the best outcomes for the children.

Mrs Anna Robinson
Chair of Governors

Thank you Jo – anna Beecroft - Chair of Governors

Jo was elected onto the Governing Body as a Parent Governor in the year 2008. Her contribution to meetings were always valuable. Her leadership style made us all feel included, worthwhile & valued.

As Chair Jo served with two Headteachers & chaired the recruitment panel that appointed Miss Cave.

We'd like to acknowledge Jo's professionalism, dedication and skill on the Governing Body and thank her for all the time she gave to the school.

The Governing Body of Addingham Primary School.

The Governors have the success and happiness of pupils at the heart of their work, supporting the school community to enjoy and achieve.

In This Issue

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- Committee Updates
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Health and Wellbeing Committee

- The committee has regrouped after a very successful OFSTED report to look at the next steps for APS. This year we have committed to being part of a pilot scheme, 'Nurturing Schools Programme'. This is a two year programme and will see Addingham work in collaboration with other schools to further develop nurturing provision within the school. We have also worked alongside the school nurse to review and update our medical conditions and medical needs policy.
- Mrs Field continues her successful work in the role of Parental Involvement Officer. This year she is running a breakfast club which a number of our pupils come to and enjoy being a part of. Pupils are able to have time to talk, catch up on homework or just check in before their school day.
- Playground resourcing is still a key focus. Last year saw the committee working alongside FAPs to secure additional provision and zone the playground into clear areas. The children were consulted about what they wanted and new toys were bought. This year, it is time to review how it's going and refresh the zones.

Resources Committee

The Resources Committee, who have responsibility for the school premises, finance and staffing matters have been busy during the current school year.

In response to the break-ins we suffered in the Autumn the committee have reviewed site security and in particular the windows, the alarm system and perimeter fencing. The fencing and the gates on the lower playground have been repositioned to improve pupil security. An energy benchmarking survey showed energy consumption is 7.5% lower than previously reflecting the better thermal properties of the replacement windows. Options for cleaning the school premises have been reviewed and a new contractor appointed. The committee have also considered a building conditions survey and health and safety audit to identify priorities for building and site maintenance.

Following a financial audit conducted by Bradford, the committee have reviewed financial processes, policies and controls with the Business Manager. The committee continue to monitor and review actual and planned income and expenditure against budget on a quarterly basis before submitting a revised forecast to Bradford. With the Headteacher and Business Manager the committee are currently reviewing numerous options for the 2017/18 budget. Please see the separate section on 'School Funding' for an overview of the difficulties we are facing this year.

The committee have continued to review staffing arrangements and to review and update policies. Sub-committees of the Resources Committee have met to discuss and agree staff pay and to carry out the Headteacher's annual appraisal.

Peter Cooke
Chair, Resources Committee

School Improvement Committee

The committee has a rolling programme of reviewing and refreshing the school policies. This year a 'Calculations Policy' is being developed and implemented to support parents/carers in helping children with work at home. We have also reviewed the Geography, History, French, PE, RE, Handwriting, English, Science and Computing policies so far this year. Please see the school website for the latest policies.

Staff have reported back from their key areas such as English, Mathematics, History, Geography, RE, PE, French, EYFS and Music. This gives the Governors the opportunity to monitor how the curriculum is meeting the needs of the pupils and the ways in which staff are ensuring that Addingham is implementing learning opportunities of the highest quality.

As ever, the Governors have a commitment to coming in to school to ensure that they are monitoring all aspects of the school in line with the School Development Plan. Through the Governor visits, we have a sound understanding of how policy translates in to action. School Improvement is about ensuring that Addingham's daily operation is 'putting children first'.

Anna Robinson
Chair, School Improvement Committee

School Funding

As has been widely reported in the media, school funding and budgets are currently under particular pressure. This is causing us intense difficulties as we try to set our budget for 2017/18 and the following two financial years but we are not unique in being in this position.

There are two causes of this pressure. Firstly, the arrangements for school funding have been changed by the government and secondly, the impact of inflation particularly on staffing budgets.

Currently Bradford allocate our budget but there will no longer be local funding models determining how school budgets are calculated but instead there will be a formula to be applied nationally for all schools from 2018/19. The intention being that this will result in greater fairness and a more even level of funding across authorities. The fixed funding for each school will reduce from £175k to £110k, which has a greater impact on smaller schools like ours. There is, however, protection in place so that pupil funding is not reduced by more than 3.0% in total or 1.5% in a single year.

It is anticipated that the majority of schools in Bradford will lose funding compared to the current year but that they will already be planning deficit budgets (planning to spend more than their funding) for 2017/18.

We have attended a presentation on the new funding arrangements given by the Head of School Finance for Bradford and he has twice visited Addingham to discuss our particular issues and concerns. With schools in Wharfedale and Airedale we have written to our MPs highlighting the difficulties with the new funding arrangements and asked them to make representations to the Education Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

When setting our budget we will seek to maximise our income (all pupils entitled to free school meals attract a higher level of funding) and review staffing expenditure while trying to avoid any negative impact on pupils and non-staffing expenditure looking for economies of scale and better value from our procurement.

Peter Cooke
Chair, Resources Committee

Contact Us

If you have any questions regarding Governance at Addingham Primary School you can log them in the Governors' log book or raise them directly with the Chair of Governors through the School Office.

You can find more information about your Governors on the school website under the, 'More' section for small screens or Governors for larger screens.

What is the purpose of a School Governor?

Statutory guidelines highlight that the function of a Governing Body is to:

- Ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined.
- Ensure that the Headteacher performs his or her responsibilities for the educational performance of the school.
- Ensure the sound, proper and effective use of the school's financial resources.

How does Governance look in Addingham Primary School?

Over a half term Governors will:

- Attend School Improvement Committee Meeting (allocated Governors): This deals with curriculum, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), safeguarding, assessment, health and wellbeing, teaching and learning.
- Attend the Resources Committee Meeting (allocated Governors): This deals with staffing and recruitment, finances, resourcing the school, buildings, maintenance and security.
- Full Governors' meetings: agreeing policies, monitoring progress, feedback from Governor visits and monitoring visits to School and agree the strategic direction of the school.
- Visits to school: monitoring staff observations and book scrutinies, listening to pupil/parent voice, visiting classes, consulting with School Council, monitoring for evidence of implementation of agreed policies/curriculum, monitoring the evidence that shows progression in teaching and learning, building and maintenance checks to ensure agreed spending, monitoring health and safety and risk assessment checks. Monitoring the safeguarding and wellbeing of the pupils and staff. (Governors attend the school's Health and Wellbeing and Esafety meetings).

Esafety Update

This year we have updated a number of ESafety Policies:

- ESafeguarding Policy
- Social Networking Policy
- Mobile Phone and Camera Use

We have also organised for a range of visitors to come to the school to help both the children, staff and parents with ESafety issues:

- NSPCC whole school ESafety Assembly and safeguarding workshops for Y5 and Y6
- EICT Leader from Bradford – Digital Footprint whole school assembly and workshops
- PCSO Steve Atkinson ESafety/Cyber Bullying/Social Media/digital Footprint workshops for Years,3,4,5 and 6
- PCSO Steven Atkinson parental information afternoons/evenings on ESafety and Social Media

Anna Robinson, our named Safeguarding Governor, has also completed a pupil interview session with the School Council to gain a better understanding of their views around ESafety and Safeguarding.

Chair of Governors: Anna Robinson

I have been a teacher since 1998. I have specialised in teaching young people with Social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. I now work for Education Bradford as a Specialist Teacher for the Behaviour Support Service.

I am passionate about safeguarding children and ensuring that provision is in place to secure the best outcomes for every individual. I have a keen interest in Special Educational Needs, Emotional Health and Wellbeing and behaviour. I have specific teaching qualifications in SEN and PSHCE

Co-opted Governor: Linda Jeffreys

I started my career in Scotland and have worked in several very different schools over my seven years of teaching.

Addingham Primary School is a very special place for me and I love working here, I grew up in Addingham and although I didn't attend the school I am very passionate about providing exciting and excellent learning opportunities for our children. The community is also very important to me and I am always keen to build our relationships across the village.

Head teacher: Hilary Cave

My first teaching job was at Sacred Heart in Ilkley, teaching Year 6. I worked in the school for nine years, becoming Assistant Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and then Acting Headteacher for one year before securing the position as Headteacher at APS in September 2012.

I am extremely passionate about education and knew this was the career for me! The Headteacher is always a member of the school's Governing Body. We have such a range of experience amongst our Governors who are able to help and support us in becoming the best that we can be.

Parent Governor: Sarah Morris

I'm a busy working mum of two sons aged 10 and 13. I've worked in education since 2008 most recently as a Child and Parent Support Manager in a school in Keighley.

I have a particular interest in the Social and Emotional Welfare of children. I firmly believe we must firstly deal with our children's emotional needs to ensure they are ready and able to learn.

I hope that my knowledge and experience of working with hard to reach families and children will prove to be useful to the Governing Body here at Addingham.

Co-opted Governor: Rev. Paul Summers

As Curate, Cathedral staff member, Vicar and then Rector of the Benefice of Lower Wharfedale I have been involved in many schools over the years. I began working in schools in 1980, then proceeded to teach and take assemblies in at least five schools over several years.

I have been Governor and chair of governors in several schools, at one point two at the same time. I was invited to join a third governing body, but the diocese of Ripon recommended no more than two!

Co-opted Governor: Gerald Whittngton

I have been in education all my working life in Secondary and Adult and Further Education, and since retirement I have taught at Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton on a short-term contract and still work as a Supply Teacher there from time to time' as well as doing all the exam invigilation in the summer.

I was delighted to have the opportunity of joining the Governing Body of APS as both my children had a very happy and successful time at the school. I now hope to be able to support and make a positive contribution to the school.

Vice Chair: Peter Cooke

When I first joined the Governors at Addingham my son was just moving into year 1 and now he is in his second year at university!

For many years I have chaired the Finance Committee. We set a realistic budget and monitor the expenditure. I have been involved in capital budget projects including the Reception and KS1 refurbishment, the replacement of the roof and new boiler installation. I was involved in the development of the strategy and policies for E-Safety, with the resultant award of the e360 award.

Parent Governor: Jason Marsh

I am a qualified accountant with a background in Facilities Management (i.e. working for companies that run buildings for people) although I am now also a Civil Servant. Rosie and I moved to Addingham in 2007 after I introduced her to the place. Having grown up in Harrogate, I had always harboured a desire to live in the village having fallen in love with it during cycling rides in my teens.

Why did I want to be a Governor? Quite simple really, I have two boys and I wanted them to go to a school that was as good as possible.

Staff Governor: Trudi DeAth

I have worked at Addingham Primary for 16yrs in all areas and have gained extensive experience throughout the school with all children in our care.

My role is to provide care, support and educational assistance for those who find school life challenging. With this in mind I have served for some time as a Governor and have seen and contributed to the growth & development of Addingham Primary School.

Co-opted Governor: Joel Griffiths

I have been involved in education for 54 years as a child, a student at 5 different universities and as a Teacher at South Craven School for 33 years. I have been head of Geography, a Governor, a coach and a Union Representative. In addition I mentored student teachers from Leeds and Lancaster universities and was briefly seconded to teach primary years student teachers at Bradford College. My interests include music (voice, guitar and fiddle), sport (tennis, cycling and skiing) and education outside the classroom (16 foreign school trips that I can remember plus a continuing role in DofE.) As a trustee of the Drake and Tonson Educational Charity I support education in Keighley. I applied to be a governor to serve the wider community in which I live and to continue my involvement in education.

Co-opted Governor: Michael Langden

I am retired from practice as a non-solicitor partner in a sizeable national law firm.

I led the firm's charity and public sector law practice specializing myself in education (schools', colleges' and universities' regulatory, disciplinary and change management, finance and information technology problems), local government, health and church etc. matters. I have a physics degree and professional qualifications etc. in forensic accountancy, tax, charity law and dispute mediation. I am a Chartered Tax Advisor. I undertook a civil service career for almost 20 years before joining a law firm.

I have been Governor of a Leeds secondary school during transition into a new build academy, Leeds College during its take-over of Keighley college and most of the colleges in Leeds and most recently Sheffield Hallam University.

I have been trustee of education and health charities and director/secretary of companies devoted to support of people with mental capacity and/or learning difficulties.

My hobbies include gardening, an allotment, photography and cooking.