

Frithwood Primary School



Striving for Excellence

Learning for Life

Achievement for All

Governors' Newsletter

Winter 2018

Welcome to the winter governors' newsletter

Dear Frithwood family

This is the first edition of a regular newsletter from the Frithwood School Governors. We would like to take the opportunity to explain more about the work we have undertaken and the things we have planned. In this first newsletter, we'll introduce the Governing Board, look at what it does, and tell you about our work.

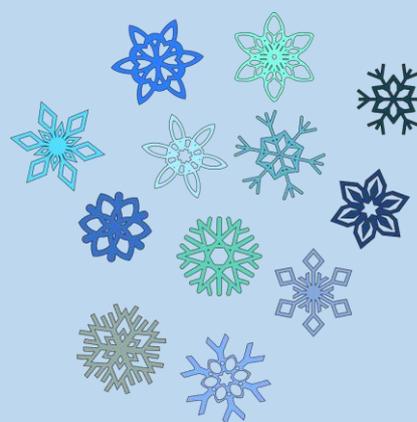
As well as this newsletter, you can also find more information about the Governing Board on the school website.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and we would welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have for other topics you would like to see covered. Please put your thoughts in writing and drop them into the school office for the attention of the Chair of Governors.

Kind regards

Ann Purcell

Chair



Governors' Newsletter

January 2018

The Governing Board:

Parent governors

Ann Purcell

Rebecca Garton

Mark Harvey

Vacancy

School governors

Mr Morse

Mrs Saunders

Miss Page

Co-opted governors

Katherine Cooper

Monica Clifford

Michael Chirside

Aiysha Malik

Local authority governors

Kuljeet Dobe

What does a governor do?

All schools must have a Governing Board, which is made up of a mix of people including parent governors, staff representatives, local authority governors and local community representatives. Our job is to help the school with its strategic direction, hold the Head Teacher(s) to account and oversee the financial performance. It is a voluntary position, which is lots of hard work but also fun.

What have we been up to?

2017 was a big year for the Governing Board as our Chair and Vice-Chair settled into their roles and we have welcomed new members. It is important that the Governing Board has a mixture of people from different walks of life, both inside and outside of the education system, and so we were really pleased to welcome our new co-opted governors who bring with them great experience and expertise.

We spent a lot of time reviewing how we are organised – so thinking about what Committees we should have, what those Committees should do, who has the right skills to chair those Committees and so on. A Governing Board also has to ensure it complies with the vast myriad of administrative and statutory requirements so we also reviewed this and made sure all the right processes were in place. This now means that we are in a really strong position to take forward our work this year.

As governors we also have to make sure we spend time in school getting to know the staff and children and understanding more about how the school runs on a day to day basis. This is certainly one of the most enjoyable parts of being a governor, but also has a really serious role because it allows governors to see how things are operating on the ground. We were also able to join in with lots of the really fun school activities such as watching the school productions and running a stall at the summer fair so we get to see all different aspects of school life.

Regular tasks

We have quite a lot of meetings. We must hold termly full Governing Board meetings, but in addition we also have a number of Committees which take on many of the actions which arise. These Committees are where the more detailed work takes place as we have the opportunity to delve more deeply into the data and discuss this with the Head Teachers.

Currently we have Committees which look at premises, finances, learning, teaching and curriculum, communication and personnel. In each newsletter we will profile each Committee and tell you a bit more about what they have been up to. This month, we will look at the Premises Committee.

Governors' Newsletter

Winter 2018

*How get in contact
with us:*

*If you would like to get
in touch with the
Governing Board
please contact the
school office*

Premises Committee profile:

The Premises Committee's primary objective is to ensure the school is safe and secure and that it provides a suitable learning environment for our children. The Committee enjoys working closely with both the Site and Facilities Managers and was sad to say goodbye to Mr Long at the beginning of the year. It is easy to see the hard work and pivotal role site managers have at our school and the hours they work to ensure our school environment is the best it can be.

Our Facilities Manager, Mr Kirk, ensures we are kept up to date with all our legal responsibilities with regards to the pupils, staff and the buildings within which they work. Our Site Manager, Mr Wren, ensures that we adhere to these policies and works tirelessly to ensure the site is maintained. With clipboard in hand, Kuljeet Dobe, our Local Authority governor, performed a health and safety audit of the school earlier in the year. As a lawyer he has an eye for detail and ensured that all policies and procedures relating to best practice were adhered to. We are committed to the maintenance and development of the site and with our new Site Manager we are working towards creating a long-term site strategy and monitoring the financial implication this has on the school budget.

Jargon buster:

There is a lot of jargon used when talking about school governance, so we thought it would be helpful if we included a jargon buster. In this edition we explain more about the following:

SIP – School Improvement Plan

Every year we go through a process of self-evaluation, and assess how well we have done in achieving the best outcomes for our children. We are committed to continually improve and therefore we work with the school leaders to draw up an improvement plan which will focus and guide our work in the coming year so that we can get even better. Effectively it's like a road map to make sure we keep a real focus on the important things and so we can keep improving. You can find a summary of the SIP on the website.

The job of the school governors is to make sure the Headteachers and staff have what they need to make this happen and monitor progress against the plan.

What are we doing this year?

As we have a number of new governors we want to ensure they have the opportunity to meet with both the pupils and staff and see how the school operates on a daily basis. We are also very much focused on monitoring progress with the school improvement plan so that we can help drive forward the key objectives and ensure the school continues to progress and succeed.