

Governors' Newsletter March 2018

Hello and welcome to the Governors' newsletter. We would like to introduce you to some of the Governors and keep you up to date on the work that the Full Governing Body does, and we hope you find the following information interesting and informative.

Full Governing Body – Some Changes.

Sam Sessions continues as Chair of Governors, but Tom Arnold has stepped down as Vice Chair, having completed his term, and is replaced by Helen Chesterfield. We welcome Mrs Louise Neale as a new parent Governor, and Miss Pearmain, who replaces Mr Geraghty as staff Governor. Full details of the FGB can be found on the school website.

Meet the Governors

Chair of Governors - Samantha Sessions



I joined the BWJS Governing Body as a Parent Governor when my son moved here from another local school in 2011. Tom enjoyed every aspect of the school, so when I saw the ad for a governor vacancy, I knew I wanted to be involved, as I was actively looking for a volunteer role within the community.

The staff work so hard at BWJS to encourage all the pupils in their care to reach their goals, whatever their abilities or talents and it's a genuine privilege to be involved. I sit on all the committees and I am the SEN linked Governor.

I became the Chair of Governors in 2015 and I was so proud of all the staff, pupils and Governors when we secured a solid "Good" in our recent Ofsted inspection.

I have worked in publishing, events organisation and the airline industry, but I am currently the Parishes Assistant for St Peter's Church, Bishop's Waltham and the Blessed Mary, Upham.

If you feel you could be a Governor and you would like to help the school to make a difference, please get in touch with me via the school. I guarantee you will get much more out of it than you put in! I can honestly say, it has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done.

Vice Chair – Helen Chesterfield



I have been a parent at BWJS for the last 5 years, and a parent governor for the last two. As my youngest has now moved on to secondary school, I have recently been re appointed as a Co-opted governor. Both of my children enjoyed their time at BWJS and took full advantage of all the curricular and extra curricular opportunities it offered.

My motivation for joining the Governing Body was to give something back to the school and community, and to help and support the school in its drive to help all the children achieve their full potential. I attend both the School Improvement Committee and the Resources Committee and am one of the designated Safeguarding governors. I qualified as a doctor in 1996 and have worked for the NHS for 21 years.

Vice Chair Resources - Jade Lakeland



My name is Jade Lakeland, and I have lived in Bishops Waltham my whole life, as have several generations of my family, and I attended Bishop's Waltham Junior School myself as a child. I joined the governing body in December 2015 as a co-opted governor and I am vice-chair of the resources committee and the development & training governor.

I have worked at Hampshire County Council for 10 years with a finance background, and currently work as an auditor within the Southern Internal Audit Partnership. I decided to join the governing body to help and support the school to reach its full potential, and to help ensure that all of the children become well-rounded individuals with happy memories of Bishop's Waltham Junior School.

Parent Governor - Rebecca Love



Hello, my name is Rebecca Love and I am a Parent Governor. I have a son who is currently in year 5. I was delighted to join the Governing Body in late 2016 as I feel it is a lovely way for me to help support the school with all its plans to achieve. I also like to help out the FOBS team when I can

Until recently I was an IT manager in a first line IT department at a local university; supporting students with software and hardware queries, this one-to-one experience with older students has given me an insight into how important a good early education needs to be. Being able to bring my experiences with older students to the Governing Body I hope will be of use and is one of the main reasons why I joined the group. When time allows I like to attend the assemblies and performances the children give; seeing the children sing, dance, act or stand in front of an audience to receive an award are some of the most special moments the school offers.

Governor Training

Governors undergo individual training, and once a year we attend a group-training workshop designed to make us better able to support the school and needs of the pupils. This year the focus was on understanding school performance data and how we can use this information to ensure that pupil outcomes continue to improve. Governors were updated on the recent changes in published data, and were advised how to use this data to monitor trends in attainment and progress. As a consequence of this training, scrutiny of the schools' data has improved.

School Improvement Plan

Each year the school identifies areas for development and the FGB have an important role in monitoring the schools progress against its improvement plan.

Two examples of key priorities this year are

- Making sure that pupils who enter the school with high attainment are appropriately challenged, and continue to progress and gain greater depth at the end of Year 6
- Barriers to learning faced by pupils with special educational needs are identified swiftly

Governor visits and monitoring

Key staff have been invited to present to the FGB, detailing what steps have been put in place to meet the schools improvement priorities and governors will continue to monitor the impact of these action plans. Many thanks to Mrs Peach for her presentation on Special Educational Needs provision, Mrs Mars for her Maths presentation and Miss Pearmain and Mr Geraghty for their presentation on writing at greater depth.

Other activities include joining teachers in a work scrutiny exercise, meeting with senior leaders to discuss the school performance summary, budget monitoring visits, Headteacher performance review, and attending feedback following the annual local authority visit.

This provides you with a summary of our activity and the areas of improvement we are targeting as outlined in the schools February 2017 Ofsted report. If you would like any further information or would be interested in becoming a member of the schools' Governing Body please contact us via the school office.

Haver a lovely Easter.

