

Governor Newsletter



Southwold Primary
& Nursery School

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February 2018

Edition 1, School Year 2017/2018

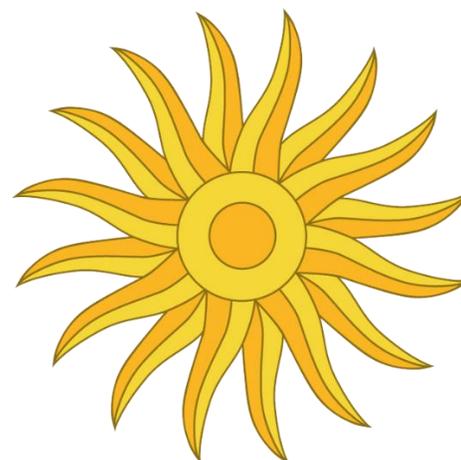
Chair's Welcome

Welcome to the first governor's newsletter for this academic year.

To open this newsletter, some background on what we do. There are 9 governors, all volunteers, made up from parents, staff and the local community. Our role is to monitor, support and challenge the school leadership team and The White Horse Federation on behalf of all stakeholders to make sure that Southwold provides the

best possible education for all children.

To do that each year we create a strategy which you can all see in reception. It has 5 main headings which are the areas Ofsted focus on when they visit schools. These are Leadership & Management; Quality of Teaching, Behaviour & Welfare; Outcomes for Pupils; and Early Years.



We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor:

You need to be able to commit to 6 meetings per academic year (all in the early evening) and undertake 2 to 3 school visits during the day again over the academic year.

Anyone interested or looking for more information on the role please contact us on: governors@southwold.oxon.sch.uk

The governors are linked to one of these five aspects and throughout the academic year will visit school to monitor progress and gather other evidence provided by the school leadership team. In the rest of this newsletter there is a progress report from these governors on each area, so you can see how the school is doing.

Since I have been chair, we have seen many improvements made as a result of parent feedback, such as improving communication with Parent Mail, changes to homework across the school, improvements to behaviour management, initiatives to improve bullying and the setting up of the Parent Council to give parents an opportunity to provide feedback and gain a better understanding of the school.

We will be carrying out our annual parent survey in March, the link to it will be sent to you via Parent Mail, please take a few minutes to complete as we really want to hear from you on how we are doing, even if you are happy we need to know!

What we do and who we are:

The Local Board of Governors (LBG) no longer carries the direct statutory responsibilities and accountability for the performance of the school. It does however take on important and vital roles to assist the academy in its ambition to provide high quality education for the children in its care.

The members of the LBG provide the school with support and challenge to help the senior leaders create the right vision and values for the school and to ensure the decision making continues to support the `direction of travel` for the academy in achieving its aims and objectives.

All the members are volunteers who give up their own time. We go into school on a regular basis to monitor progress against the strategic plan and offer support and challenge as appropriate. We also attend many events such as concerts and assemblies and we also help FOSS at e.g. summer and Christmas activities.

We will also be present for the next parents' evening, so please do not hesitate to ask us any questions you might have.

You can also find more information on the school website:
<http://www.southwoldschool.org/about-us/governors/>

Who your governors are:

Mr Graeme Parrott	Parent
Mr Mark Leman	Parent
Mr Chris Williams	Academy Appointed
Mrs Anna Ballance / Mr Alan Derry	Staff (Principal)
Mrs Gemma Penny	Staff (Teacher)
Mr Gavin Bray (Chairman)	Academy Appointed
Mrs Jo Stanley	Non-Teaching Staff
Mrs Wiebke Macrae	Academy Appointed
Mr Darren Townsend	Parent
Mrs Lorna Nicol	Academy Appointed

Introducing Lorna Nicol – new governor at Southwold School:

I have been a Governor at Southwold School since July 2017. With grown up children and having recently made the move into a self-employed world I can dedicate time to activities which will benefit the community.

I am a Wealth Management Consultant, working and helping both Personal and Business Financial Planning. I have worked in Financial Services for over 30 years gaining experience in Finance, Planning, Management and Team working. I am experienced in Recruitment, Coaching and Development as well as assessments and observations.

Outside of work I am married with two adult children; I've lived in Bicester for 17 years. My pastimes include sailing and I am a qualified Boat Skipper. I enjoy travelling and I am a qualified SCUBA Diver. I love my garden and the outdoors, and I keep 3 pet chickens which is great fun.



Strategy 2017/18:

The LBG has developed a strategic plan for 2017/18. This plan is based on our vision and values and divided into five key areas. The following will give you an update on what we are currently monitoring and reviewing.

Effectiveness of leadership and management:

We are looking at the leadership in the school, especially at how middle leaders are empowered and coached as well as the new pupil leadership team and the impact they have. Another area of focus is how pupil progress is monitored and the improvement of outcomes based on the activities implemented. And finally, we also monitor the development of a well-composed and stimulating curriculum.

Quality of teaching, learning and assessment:

We are reviewing the new report card system for providing all parents with actionable feedback on how their child is doing, and the six-week workshop programme for parents who asked for help in supporting

their child's learning in the home environment. Learning walks took place to look at the crown jewels; some wonderful examples of well-presented books illustrating how much progress is being made. We also focus on how training and coaching is given to teachers to ensure the quality of teaching and learning as well as the Maths Mastery approach.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare:

Our role focuses on the children's attitude to their learning, attendance and prevention of bullying. During a school visit in December, we were pleased to see that the whole school was embracing the new PSHE 'Jigsaw' Programme and saw how successful the World Values Day had been. Anti-bullying Ambassadors have been introduced and the school is adopting a pro-active approach to the prevention of bullying which includes children, staff and parents all working together. Anti-bullying week culminated in a very informative Cyber-bullying/E-safety event.

Outcomes for pupils:

We are involved with some other schools in WHF undertaking a 100 day challenge to significantly improve the outcomes for all pupils in Early years, year 2 and year 6 so that they hit national norms. This involves identifying where pupils are currently and what help they need to guarantee success. Governors and senior leaders are closely monitoring this challenge.

Early year's provision:

We have undertaken visits this academic year to monitor progress and see how teaching is delivered in the class room. Data so far shows that we are again on track to exceed national figures. Where children need extra help, plans are in place to deliver this and are showing impact.

We hope you found this newsletter informative and it gave you a good insight into our work as the LBG for Southwold School. If you have further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Email address: governors@southwold.oxon.sch.uk

With kind regards,

Gavin Bray for the Local Board of Governors of Southwold Primary and Nursery School