

Governor Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Welcome to our Autumn Governor newsletter, especially to the new families who have joined our lovely village school. As governors we ensure the school ethos and values are part of our everyday life. This, along with our Christian values, is what makes this such a special place to be. We believe that it is up to all of us, as governors, staff, pupils & parents/carers to uphold these values. This year we have joined in Partnership with Hawkesbury School who share very similar values, which is a positive start to this beneficial partnership.

The current parent governor posts come to an end in Sept 2019. If you would like to find out more about the role, please do come and chat to us and we can give you an overview of this vital and rewarding position.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas,

Ellie (Chair of Governors)

Partnership with Hawkesbury School

It's still early days, but so far so good with the partnership and sharing our executive head teacher with Hawkesbury School.

As a small school, one of the challenges we face is supporting all our staff to collaborate and share best practice, so having the opportunity to engage with peers at a linked school is really beneficial. Teaching staff are already reporting the benefits of linking with leads in their own subjects/responsibilities at Hawkesbury and this delivers new enthusiasm and benefits to our pupils.

The children are also feeding back positively about the new arrangements, for example sharing Pen Pals with their year groups at Hawkesbury and there have been visits both ways and shared extra-curricular activities, which the children voiced they would like to do more of.

The governing bodies from both schools continue to meet regularly in the form of a Steering Committee set up to ensure that the partnership continues to grow and offer the best possible outcomes and opportunities for our school.



The Governing Body

Head Teacher: Mike Riches

Clerk: Helen Parry

Chair of Governors & Parent

Governor: Ellie Blanch (English & Science link)

Vice Chair: Rob Taylor

Parent Governor: Ann Mora (Maths & Music link)

Staff Governor: Amy Lyall

Foundation Governors: Sandra Sparkes, Jo Strange (PSHE & Languages)

Local Authority Governor Adam Dinham (Safeguarding)

Co-opted Governors: Di Pardoe (assessment), Ben Clarke (Pupil Premium), Peter Foote (Health & Safety)

Finance Committee Update

We often hear, in the media, that schools are in a dire financial state and the negative impacts this has on children's education. We are proud, at Iron Acton, that we are in a healthy financial position. The finance committee and Mr Riches ensure careful and targeted spending to keep the books balanced. This ensures our children enjoy a rich and varied curriculum which provides high quality learning opportunities that is sustainable for the future.

This year priorities over and above the usual spendings are outdoor learning, music and modern foreign languages.

Ethos Committee Update

The Ethos committee supports the school in providing a strong Christian Foundation which offers Moral and Spiritual guidance whilst valuing individuality achieved by effective Religious Education and Collective Worship.

One of the actions from our SIAMS (church school) inspection was "Develop children's understanding of prayer" especially "different types of prayer" and to support and help us to achieve this Father Malcolm has increased the frequency of visits to lead collective worship and work with classes to explore the theme of prayer.

Our school values are very important to us and are explored through daily collective worship. Each term is dedicated to a particular value and in term 1 this was THANKFULNESS which fitted very nicely with our Harvest thanksgiving service in St James the Less where proceeds from the auction went to Help Bristol's Homeless project as well as non-perishable goods being donated to Yate and Chipping Sodbury foodbank. In term 2 our value was TRUST and a particular focus was on the World War 1 Centenary celebrations. The children made poppies with names of local people who lost their lives which were taken to a service of commemoration in church where we were joined by North Road School for this special event.

Introducing Our New Governor



I am very excited to have been appointed as one of the Foundation Governors for Iron Acton School.

I have spent the last 16 years working in secondary education most recently as a non-teaching assistant head of house where my primary role was pastoral care. I retired from that role at Easter and am now working part time for a local church as the Pastoral Family Liaison Minister - this role involves going into two local primary schools offering pastoral support to students with particular needs and supporting staff and parents where appropriate. This is an exciting new challenge which I am thoroughly enjoying.

As a lay minister I am a member of the Fromeside Benefice of Churches ministry team and I regularly lead the monthly all age service at St James Church – something I really enjoy.

I believe passionately that the pastoral care of young people makes an essential contribution to their whole development – they need to feel safe, happy and supported in order to reach their potential.

I am really looking forward to developing my relationship with the school in this new role and contributing to the school's established Christian ethos in any way that I can.

Jo Strange