
Governor Newsletter

Summer 2016

Iron Acton C of E Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of the school year is nearly upon us and hasn't it flown by. This time last year we were waving a fond farewell to Mrs Bendeaux and looking forward to Mr Riches starting in September.

The Governing body has also had a number of changes in personnel and procedures and I feel confident that we are fulfilling our role in supporting and holding the school to account to ensure the best future for all the children.

There has been a lot in the media this year with regard to schools becoming academies. It is still not completely clear how this will play out, but we feel we need to be prepared for whatever is on the horizon. We have to be able to show that, although we are a small school, we are very viable and should be in control of our destiny. We are therefore collecting evidence to inform our thinking. Iron Acton School is part of a small school cluster group and works with the other small schools in the area. We, as Governors, are very keen for this to continue and develop further, ensuring that best practice and expertise can be shared amongst the group. I will be asking the Governing bodies of each of the schools if we can visit each other's meetings to help us develop strong, effective Governance. This will, we hope, allow us to maintain our village school feel but gain the benefits of a wider range of experiences.

With this in mind, over the last few terms, we have spent a lot of time reviewing the school's vision and aims. Staff, parents and pupils have all been asked to contribute for which a big thank you goes to all who gave their input. We have included as much as we can and believe that we have captured the ethos and "feel" accurately. This will be regularly discussed in school and will become part of everyday life for all of us involved in our learning community. The launch will be in September so keep an eye on the website!

We could be due an Ofsted inspection next year and Staff and Governors are continuing to work hard to ensure that there is evidence of all the good work being done. But we can all contribute to ensuring our school is recognised as the great place it is. Attendance and punctuality is an area Ofsted look at along with parent/community opinions positive or otherwise. You can give yours on their website at any time using the link <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Both Ofsted and the school see Safeguarding our children as a very high priority. As part of my role as Safeguarding Governor I have attended several courses this year including Safer Recruitment, the Government's Prevent Training and Safeguarding within schools. Mr Riches is the Safeguarding officer for the school and currently Mrs Detzler is Deputy Safeguarding Officer. Should you ever have any concerns please do speak to them.



The Governing Body

Head Teacher: Mike Riches

Clerk: Helen Parry

Chair of Governors: Ellie Blanch (& Parent Governor)

Vice Chair: Rob Taylor

Parent Governor: Ann Mora

Staff Governor: Vacant

Foundation Governors: Sandra Sparkes and Carol Snow-Budd

Co-opted Governors: Di Pardoe, Ben Clarke & Mark Kirkham

Local Authority Governor: Jess Lewis

Contratulations to Miss Allen, our Reception/Year 1 teacher for winning The Gazette's Teacher of the Year award 2016. Well deserved!



Our school always welcomes your comments, opinions or suggestions so please do come and talk to one of us in the playground at drop off or pick up time or via the school office with any Governor related issues.

We are looking forward to the next academic year and we hope you have a fantastic summer.

Best wishes Ellie Blanch

News from some of the Governors

Sandra Sparkes

As a Foundation governor I am appointed by the Diocese. I am the link governor for religious education, my role being to support the school in its Christian distinctiveness. Our Collective Worship policy has recently been rewritten to incorporate our British values of Respect, Democracy, Law and Liberty. The school celebrates all the Christian festivals and this term we have been exploring the Olympic and Paralympic values including friendship, respect and equality and the children have been encouraged to demonstrate these values

Ben Clarke

One of my roles as a Governor is Pupil Premium champion. Pupil Premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap between them and their peers. This means that if your child qualifies for free school meals - even if they are in Reception, Yr 1 or Yr 2 and get them anyway - by completing a form (available from the office) you can ensure that the school receives extra money to help with your child's education. My role is to ensure that this money is spent in the most effective way to achieve the greatest impact on outcomes. The full report of how the money is spent is available on the school website.

Recently the Governors have:

- Been the catalyst for Health week
- Agreed spending on New play equipment
- Supported new Early Years learning initiatives in Class 1
- Agreed spending for refurbishment of Class 2
- Reviewed attainment and progress results and agreed staffing and resource allocation for next year
- Met with our School Improvement Advisor (SIA) and Mr Riches to discuss the Strategic Development plan for next year
- Been on the Interview panel for new teachers
- Helped Class 3 make smoothies during health week
- Monitored the correct procedures were carried out during the SATs tests

Introducing our new Governor



My name is Mrs. Carol Snow Budd and I am your newest Foundation Governor. I am honored to be of service to the school and with God's help we can continue to grow to be a faithful school community founded on the love of our Lord Jesus Christ dedicating ourselves to our growth and education both practical and spiritual.

Originally from the United States, I have had a varied education and work experience including nursing, insurance, finance and I have founded and owned several successful businesses in the USA and here in Bristol so I might be of help on the finance committee although I am new to educational establishments. I look forward to learning from and serving all of you.

God bless you, sincerely,

Carol Snow Budd
