

Governor Newsletter

Summer 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

The end of term will soon be upon us marking the end of another successful year at Iron Acton and the first in our partnership with Hawkesbury Upton School. The Governing body has been focusing mainly on the smooth implementation of the partnership and the continued perusing of our new building so we can restructure the classes in September into the year group mix that will benefit children and staff alike.

We will be saying goodbye to 4 members of our Governing body who have been fantastic in their contribution, thank you and best wishes to Ann, Di, Mrs Lyall and Pete. We have recruited Sarah Godsell and Deb Marriage as co-opted governors, both of who bring excellent insight and invaluable skills, the staff are currently voting for the next staff governor and we will be holding parent governor elections in September. There are 2 parent governor posts that you will be able to nominate and vote for. More details will be sent out straight after the hols.

Once we return after the summer, our first project, as governors, will involve re-evaluating the school ethos, vision and aims and as always we want to hear your thoughts and opinions so please do approach any of the governing body for a chat.

Thank you to every child, parent, carer, staff member, governor and everyone else who contributes to making Iron Acton Primary School the wonderful place it is.

Happy holidays - Ellie Blanch

New Classroom

South Gloucestershire Council have now confirmed that our new 'temporary' double classroom will be installed ready for the start of the new academic year. This is absolutely fantastic news as it will support our vision for the new class structures that should help our pupils with their schooling and further improve their learning environments. It has been a long road and a lot of work for the staff and governors to ensure we get the new classroom so it was a relief to finally receive confirmation that it is all going ahead as planned! - Rob Taylor



The Governing Body

Head Teacher: Mike Riches

Clerk: Kate Bashford

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)

Purple Learners

It has been exciting to spend time in school this year working with the children on becoming better learners and they now talk more confidently about how important it is to be 'purple learners' who challenge themselves and learn from their mistakes. They now have a deeper understanding of what makes a good learner and they know that the key to success is effort....all good preparation for the future.

Next year there will be a team of Learning Detectives in school too who will be looking for evidence of all the good learning that is happening in all the classrooms! Watch this space! - Di Pardoe

Parent Governor

We will be looking for two new parent governors next year so if you are interested in making a difference at the school you should consider applying. The staff and Mr Riches are really approachable and the governors are a great team that welcome new and enthusiastic views. When I started as a parent governor, I didn't have any experience of schools or teaching but was keen to help out and get involved. You soon build up your knowledge and I have found the last 6 year thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding. If you are interested I would definitely recommend you give it a go! Ann Mora – Parent Governor

Introducing Our New Governors for 2019/20

I worked as a teacher for many years in the old 'Avon' area and currently work in the South Glos. public health and wellbeing division, with a passion for promotion health and wellbeing in school communities. I've had a long standing and positive involvement with the village of Iron Acton, joining the Actonians drama group almost 25 years ago, co-running the youth drama group over the past six years and more recently joining the community choir. I'm very much looking forward expanding my involvement with the village as a member of the governing body of Iron Acton School, and supporting the school to provide the highest quality of learning and teaching across the whole curriculum.

Sarah Godsell



I'm Deb and I am very much looking forward to taking up the role of school governor! I work as a nurse specialist and manage the Asthma & Allergy Service at Bristol Children's Hospital. I have 7 children, including a son with autism, a daughter with ADD and a son with difficult epilepsy. My two youngest daughters currently attend Bristol Cathedral Choir School. I have a particular interest in supporting families of children with additional educational needs and have been through the diagnostic and EHCP processes myself. My family enjoys being involved in musical activities and you may have heard them at various village events either singing or playing the cello, violin, handbells or even the musical saw.

Deb Marriage

