

Governor Newsletter Autumn 2019



WELCOME BACK!

Dear parents/carers

Welcome to the autumn Governor newsletter. We start the year with some new faces on our Governing body, bringing fantastic skills and experience that I know will help Iron Acton School continue to go from strength to strength. We have held our 1st set of committee meetings and a full Governing Body meeting and are well under way in ensuring priorities are set for the year ahead and beyond.

As always, we are open to hearing your thoughts and myself and Charlotte Murphy (newly appointed), as parent governors, will represent the view of parents. So please do come and have a chat in the playground or leave a message for us in the school office.

Looking forward to sharing a great academic year with you all.

Ellie Blanch, Chair of Governors

Strategic direction:

All governing bodies have 3 strategic functions: direction, accountability and financial performance. In terms of 'direction' the Ethos committee are reviewing the vision, aims and values (British, Christian and school) to ensure they are relevant to the changing character of our school and our increasing pupil numbers. This review began in consultation with governors and staff at a recent inset day and will also be informed with the children via pupil conferencing. All stakeholders, including parents and carers, will also have the opportunity to comment in the near future.

A review of the first year of our partnership with Hawkesbury Upton has shown many advantages for staff and pupils; joining up different aspects of staff development and children sharing experiences together.

Sandra Sparkes

Governing Body

Head Teacher: Mike Riches

Clerk: Kate Bashford

Chair of Governors & Parent Governor:

Ellie Blanch

Vice Chair:

Rob Taylor

Parent Governor: Charlotte Murphy

Staff Governor: Catherine Detzler

Foundation Governors:

Sandra Sparkes

Jo Strange

Local Authority Governor

Adam Dinham
(Safeguarding)

Co-opted Governors:

Ben Clarke

Sarah Godsell

Deb Marriage

NEW GOVERNORS

The governing body has two new members.

I'm Charlotte Murphy, mum of Oscar (currently in year 2) and Jasper (who I hope will go to the school next year), and I've just become one of the Parent Governors. Having moved around a lot with work, my husband and I wanted to settle somewhere and become part of a community and so we moved to Iron Acton 3 years ago.

One of the most important things to me as a parent is that my children grow up to be happy, confident individuals that are proud of their uniqueness. School is obviously a key part of a child's formative years and I really liked the caring and supportive environment of Iron Acton. I wanted to become a Governor to support the long-term development of the school and to 'give something back' to a community that has made my family very welcome over the last few years.

My name is Catherine Detzler and I am excited to be taking on the role of Staff Governor at Iron Acton. I have been teaching for over 30 years in Italy and England and have worked in schools in both Bristol and South Gloucestershire for the past 20 years.

At present, I teach year 5/6, part-time alongside Sarah Bagnall, but have taught across all of KS2 as well as year 2 in the past and am looking forward to bringing my years of experience and insight to the Governing Body. I am also happy to have the opportunity to become more involved in the strategic planning of the school as we look to the future.

When not teaching I enjoy being part of a busy, active church community in Bristol and am involved in book groups, cooking groups and family life with my husband and three grown up children.

AND FINALLY, NEW CLASSROOM UPDATE.....

We hope that you have all seen the temporary classroom on the field symbolising that the ongoing hard work in securing the new classroom is now beginning to become reality. We are continuing to work with the local authority to ensure we get the best accommodation and play space for our children.

The removal of the old Elliot building will happen over the coming months and then the new permanent classroom will be installed, and groundwork begin. We are very excited about this and feel this is a huge step forward for the school.

The realigned class structure is working well, and staff are reporting that they and the children are already benefiting from the new year group mix.