



NORTH NIBLEY CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest Newsletter which the Governors of North Nibley School are hoping will help communicate information about the Governors work with the School.

If ever you would like to know more details about who the Governors are, what they do or what it means to be a Governor then do please approach a Governor to ask!

The North Nibley Governors are:

*Miss Allen
Mr Batchelor
Sue Bradley-Jones
Roly Brown
Sarah Aston
Emma Frith
Peter Hall
Di Hay
Chris Huxley-Reynard
Dawn Shepherd
Tassos Stamatopoulos
Sandy Revie*

Contacting Governors

Governors are readily contactable.
Email Roly Brown - chair@northnibley.gloucs.gov.uk or send a letter or message via the School Office. Any Governor will be happy to help you.

Raring to go!

The Governors have been busier than usual in this first Autumn term. The first Full Governing Board meeting was held towards the end of September. This meeting always turns out to have quite a full agenda and this year was no exception. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected on an annual basis and Roly Brown and Sarah Aston were elected to stand in those roles respectively for another year which will provide some good continuity. The make-up of the sub-committees (Teaching & Learning, Finance & Premises, Leadership & Management) is also agreed. A significant part of the meeting was reviewing and formally agreeing the School Improvement Plan. This is an annual Plan which is put in place to ensure that we are continually striving to be as good as we can be and usefully focusses us on some individual areas. This year the content has been driven by staff input to a greater extent than normal which we think is a very healthy approach. Each identified priority has an individual Governor monitoring it in order to help out with progressing it.

What has made the month particularly busy is the added initiative of a strategic review of the School which the Governors are undertaking. More on that over the page.

Goodbye, Thank You and Hello!

We were sad to see Philippa Burrows leave us as a Parent Governor just ahead of this term but are very grateful for all of the work that she did on behalf of the Governors. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Dawn Shepherd on to the Governing Board. Dawn is a parent but is coming on board in the role of Foundation Governor having been nominated by the Parochial Church Council. Dawn is a trained teacher and her contribution will be very welcome.

This still leaves us with vacancies for Parent Governor and Co-Opted Governor but we hope to have these formally filled by the time of the next Governor Newsletter.

Our Vision is to inspire and celebrate Learning, Achievement, Faith and Fun!

NORTH NIBLEY SCHOOL IN THE NEWS

North Nibley village has a monthly newsletter called 'On The Edge'. In last month's edition, this little article caught our eye for obvious reasons. It was submitted by David & Sheila Chapman who have given permission for it to be reproduced here.

Very few of the current Governors can take credit for the journey that the Chapman's children enjoyed at North Nibley School so this isn't intended to be self-congratulatory! However, occasionally it is nice to share un-prompted positive thoughts about the School and 'celebrate Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun', all of which are mentioned in the Chapman's article.



Out of Little Acorns.....

In September 2004 we left our young off-springs in the capable hands of Mrs Freeman and her staff at North Nibley School. Little did we realise what a marvellous start this would be for our youngsters, or indeed how quickly the years would pass.

There are lots of fond memories of Nativity plays, and as the years went on of wonderfully entertaining Summer school productions!

Although the children had mixed abilities they were always encouraged to do their best in a loving, gentle and consistent environment. Florence often talked with fondness and respect of Mrs Hopkins taking a small group to the staff room for some coaching in Maths....."but it was great because we all had nice drinks and biscuits.....and it was our secret!"

All too soon Senior school has come and gone and although the Students have more change ahead, their foundations from North Nibley have prepared them admirably for the next stage....plus the amazing academic results they have achieved.

At Florence's Celebratory Evening Mr Alexander said "any academic results can only be achieved through years of teamwork". By that he meant family, friends, community including spiritual support, primary school, senior school, the wonderful volunteers and governors.

Thank you Mr Batchelor and Staff for the safeguarding and sustaining of such a unique and special part of our community.

Congratulations to the Students on their amazing results, a true reflection, that North Nibley School remains a successful and an integral part of our village life.

Good Luck to all our wonderful Students, past present and future, and a School who has given our society so much with unconditional professionalism.



Thank you, David & Sheila!

Strategic Review

The Government have put much more emphasis on Governors setting the strategic direction of their schools. Part of the new OFSTED inspection guidance expects us to demonstrate how we have an ambitious vision for the School.

In the last newsletter, this strategic approach was mentioned and you may remember how the School Vision was reached and agreed with stakeholders – i.e. not just by the Governors. The Strategic Review process was therefore started last year by reviewing various aspects of the School and how we govern it.

This term has started with additional meetings because it became obvious that, in order to be strategic, we had to allow ourselves the time to be strategic. The usual process of Governors meetings can be full of other very important things to deal with so we felt it important to set extra time aside for the strategic perspective to develop. The beauty of having a diverse range of Governors is that we all have different perspectives on the school and we have used that to develop a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) analysis. We found that most of the individual points raised in that process (and there were many!) boiled down to a list of about 14 key areas. Some of those are already covered in the annual School Improvement Plan (see first page) because they can be acted on immediately and some of the areas need to guide our overall approach rather than being specific actions. The remainder are eight areas that we wanted to go away, research, analyse and then come back to agree on a plan of action. Individual Governors or small teams took responsibility for different areas and will be going away to do what they can to take it forward.

Fortunately, there are some very good resources of information: last term's parent questionnaire; existing staff knowledge and experience; school inspection reports; looking in to how other schools do things; asking Governors, parents and other stakeholders. We therefore have plenty to get on with and don't be surprised if a Governor asks for your opinion on something!

Don't panic though; we have no plans to turn the School upside down! The reason for doing the SWOT analysis was not just to establish what improvements can be made but also to identify what the current strengths are. We plan to protect and improve on the strengths, tackle the weaknesses, seize the opportunities and mitigate against the threats. One thing is for sure though, the moment we sit back and think this school is perfect, no matter how good it might be, is the moment that we will have failed as Governors. The pursuit of continuous improvement is a fundamental part of what we must do and that will only be of benefit to the children, parents, staff and the whole school community.

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