



NORTH NIBLEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Spring Term's Newsletter. We are hoping to send you news of the Governors of North Nibley School more often as we hope to improve our communication about the Governors' work within the School and behind the scenes. As ever, if 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 any one of us to ask!

*Sue Bradley-Jones (Chair)
Peter Hall (Vice-Chair)
Chris Huxley-Reynard (Chair Finance and Premises)
Di Hay (Chair Leadership and Management)
Tassos Stamatopolous (Chair Teaching and Learning)
Emma Frith
Sue Plant
Miss Parker
Mr Batchelor
Dawn Shepherd
Fiona Yarrow
Jude Saunderson
Roland Brown*

Contacting Governors

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

Welcome!

As you may be aware from the School Newsletter, Fiona Yarrow has joined the Governors. Fiona is a Rural Practice Chartered Surveyor; one aspect of her job is to manage Clients' residential, agricultural and commercial property portfolios together with their accounts. She brings this and many useful contacts with her. As such, Fiona will sit on the Finance & Premises Committee, where her advice and knowledge has already been put to good use – hit the road running!

What a drain...

Governors are responsible for the School Premises and it won't have escaped your attention that the drains have been a bit of a challenge. This has been an ongoing problem but it reached a head when the School was closed for an afternoon because the system failed.

So, what do the Governors do when there is a horrible job to sort out? We ask the newest Governor to deal with it! Joking aside, Fiona Yarrow's contacts from her property management career really came in to their own here and we have been able to have the drains surveyed to understand what the problems are. Fortunately, with what we hope will be a modest amount of work inside the drains (don't worry, we will get a contractor rather than asking Fiona to do it!) and a reliable set of drain rods provided to the School, we think the problem can be solved. Fingers crossed (and hopefully no further need for legs to be crossed!)

In The News – Budgets and Safeguarding

Mr Batchelor and Mrs Bargewell have been working hard on the financial priorities for the coming year. Governors have oversight of draft budgets before we confirm our final position in April/May. You can expect some headline figures from Mr Batchelor via the school newsletter in the near future.

Another of Mr Batchelor's duties are to ensure that the school's policies for safeguarding children are current and, most importantly, read and understood by staff, so that correct procedures are followed should a matter arise. The current 'Need-to-know' file runs to 250 pages! It will all have to be updated and approved again next year!

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

Meet the Governor!



Emma Crichton-Miller

Emma is a Foundation Governor who lives in North Nibley and whose children used to attend North Nibley School. We asked Emma a few questions to help our readers find out a little more about her

Q: How long have you been a Governor?

Emma: I have been a Foundation Governor for nearly three years. We moved to North Nibley (from London) thirteen years ago, partly so that my children could come to this school. Once they had moved on to Katharine Lady Berkeley's School, I wanted to maintain a connection with this small and special world, which had given my children such a secure start. At the same moment an opportunity arose to become a Governor and it seemed such good timing, I seized it.

Q: Can you tell us a little about yourself?

Emma: I am a Londoner by birth and upbringing but my husband, Mark Frith, was born in Wotton and brought up in North Nibley. He himself went to North Nibley Primary School, a long time ago, and then moved on to KLB. My first career was as a television producer, making arts and science documentaries for the BBC and Channel Four, latterly through a small independent production company. But after I had my children, I began to work as a freelance journalist. It was this that made it possible for us to move to North Nibley. I write for a number of newspapers and magazines, mostly about art and design, and no day is the same as the day before. This means that family life in North Nibley is busy and complicated but very happy. My two sons are making their way through KLB, still with strong connections to their North Nibley schoolmates, and we have three dogs.

Q: Tell us something about yourself that most people won't know?

Emma: I sing in a local choir. Having not sung in a choir since I was at school I was pretty nervous when I started and I am still terrified of making mistakes or of sudden squeaks. The thrill, however, of singing wonderful pieces of music in a group is worth the terror - and our two hour rehearsals are a highlight of my week.

Q: What book did you last read?

Emma: The last book I read was a very eccentric novel called Robinson by the wonderful Muriel Spark. It is short - I needed something light to pack quickly before travelling. It was gripping. It is not so much the strange story of three people who survive a plane crash on a remote island, inhabited only by the mysterious and very unCrusoe-like Robinson and a young boy, that kept me turning the pages, but the sharp, quirky voice of the narrator.

Q: What music do you listen to?

Emma: I like a great range of music from early English Church music to the haunting and discordant electronic dance music my son tracks down on the internet. As my family knows, I will, embarrassingly, dance to almost anything!

Q: What is the most and least rewarding aspects of being a Governor?

Emma: The most rewarding aspect of being a governor is the opportunity it gives me to contribute to the support of an exceptionally nice school run by very dedicated staff. It is always a pleasure to come into school and observe the children entering whole-heartedly and confidently into that day's learning or activities. The most difficult aspect is trying to keep pace with all the changing demands placed upon teachers and pupils by new curricula and new assessment criteria.

Q: What three words would you use to describe the School?

Emma: Friendly, Cheerful, Organised

Q: 1What aspect of School Governance do you hope to focus on?

Emma: I am lucky to be part of a very capable and committed team of governors, many of whom have special expertise. Our primary concern is to support the head teacher and staff in driving school improvement, and because of my own passion for reading and writing, I am particularly engaged with our current focus on these areas. I am also very keen, as a Foundation Governor, to help the school articulate and maintain its strong Christian vision, in a contemporary context.

The Playground

As most of you know, the Governors and FONNS have joined together to fund the replacement of some of the playground equipment that has become unusable over time. The suppliers have faced delays in other commitments but are now on site!

With the hard work of the Polli:Nation club in addition to the new equipment, the school grounds will look amazing!

SWOT team!

Last year, for the first time, Governors analysed the School in order to see where there were

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities &

Threats to the excellent work the school and governors were doing to bring good education to the pupils at North Nibley School.

Out of this analysis, 8 strategic topics became the focus around which informal discussions took place in order to further improve parts of the school. Out of this arose the need to look at Wrap-Around Care, Progress Reporting during the school year and the structure of the Governing Body.

This year, you are seeing some of the fruits of these discussions in being asked your opinions on these subjects, or, indeed, receiving in-year reports. Two-way communication is vital for the effects to be measured, so please comment in ParentView and/or via email on the success of this process

Thank you!