



NORTH NIBLEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Here is the third governors' newsletter this school year to update you on our activities. Rest assured we have not been idle. In addition to our regular involvement in the school's life through the various committees which meet twice a term, there are lots of other ways we get involved. We make formal visits to see teaching in action, and also have the pleasure of learning about the many and various school activities outside the classroom: two are described here. We ourselves were visited by a member of the School Council to fill us in on what they had been doing. You can read about new governor, Julie Collins, get an update on the proposed new building, and more....

Sue Bradley-Jones (Chair)
Peter Hall (Vice-Chair)
Julie Collins
Emma Frith
Ned Hussain
Chris Huxley-Reynard
Silvana Romero-Brown
Jude Saunderson
Fiona Yarrow
Abbie Parker (Staff Member)
Paul Batchelor (Head Teacher)
(THREE VACANCIES)

The latest in our 'know your governors' series!

Julie Collins was appointed as a governor in September 2017. Here she tells us a bit about herself:



'I have recently retired from the role of Education Outreach Manager at Renishaw. The key purpose of the outreach team was to encourage young people to take sciences and then persuade them that engineering (in its many forms) was the career direction to go. Prior to that I had my own business and worked with people wanting to change careers, ran training courses on all aspects of leadership, and coached senior managers in industry.

My outside interests include books, music, and walking, and I am a member of the local community choir and like keeping fit. I also belong to a share investment club - but as I haven't moved to somewhere hot and sunny we are not that successful!

I have joined the leadership and management committee of the governors, as I feel I can add value with the skills I have in this field. I have also been a governor at KLB so hope to bring some that experience to the board - but recognise that many of the issues governors face, and the rules of governance will have changed. Both my children attended North Nibley and so have a great affection to the school for giving them such a good start in life. So far I have been impressed by the dedication and passion of the teachers, the feeling of caring they have for their pupils and how hard everyone works."

NEW BUILDING UPDATE

One key area identified within the previous strategic plan was 'premises weaknesses, with a focus on the possibility of having a 'break-out' building for small group work. Two thirds of the proposed space is to be fitted out to provide additional designated space where smaller groups of children can go for additional teaching support or where single year groups can be taught without having to sit in the corridor or share common space such as the staffroom or the hall often at the same time as other activities. The balance of the space will be a secure and water tight area for storage.

With a build cost of circa £100,000, funding is paramount. Emily Loveday has been successful in securing in excess of £17,000 of grant from various sources to date. Further funds have been identified, some of which are subject to obtaining planning permission before an application for grant can be submitted. With funding being very important, the Strategy Group has invited Emily Loveday to present to the group about general fundraising opportunities for the Governing Board which do not conflict with the excellent work of FONNS. Fiona Yarrow.

TWO GOVERNOR VISITS School Governors regularly visit school, always with a view to monitoring the school’s work, and their comments and insights are particularly helpful. As well as classroom / lesson visits and appointing new staff, Governors have accompanied trips, led worship and sampled school dinners! Here are two recent reports.

Places of Worship – Classes 1 & 2 visit to a mosque in Gloucester	The Gold Standard
<p>As a newly joined Foundation Governor of North Nibley School, I was very excited and curious what this visit would entail and the experience that children would gain, especially at their stage in their development. I was very pleased not only with the school for arranging the trip, but also for the Imam at the Mosque who had a natural ability to speak in an engaging and refreshing manner.</p> <p>On arrival it was lovely to see the children talking between themselves and I had the sense this was a journey into the unknown, especially for some of the children.</p> <p>The coach arrived and the TA’s, Miss Allen and some parents humped out wearing their high visibility vests, gave clear military precision instructions to the children, who willingly obliged. Izzah’s mum and I wore our traditional Pakistani clothes and the children were partly confused and partly curious about these. It was a good opportunity to explore different traditions.</p> <p>We headed to the Mosque and I asked the children if they knew what the dome shaped building was and could they find the name of the said building. Many of the children read the name of the mosque and I began to ask questions about the ‘squiggles’! A very concise manner to describe the Arabic text I thought.</p> <p>We were greeted and told to enter the mosque and make our way upstairs when their children congregated with their back packs and waited for their next instruction, eagerly waiting to see what happens next.</p> <p>The Imam, Imam Hassan, was a tall gentleman with a beard who really engaged the children. He even had a quiz which some of the children even won prizes for their efforts. Effort was also positively seen when children took the challenge to recall elements of the quiz in groups and I ended up working some of the boys – a new experience for me! Gosh were they competitive!</p> <p>The children learnt about the 5 pillars of Islam and even had the opportunity to wear traditional outfits, which was clearly a novel experience for many of them, though some had been to a mosque on holiday. I saw a few of the girls wearing their head scarves and I must say they looked like Princess Jasmine from Aladdin!</p> <p>Once we finished the dress up time, we heading downstairs to the wash room – clearly things have changed since I attend a mosque where I grew up in London and I was surprised to see stools and clean facilities. Not the same in my day as a boy!</p> <p>Imam Hassan finally showed the children where he reads his Friday prayers and the children learnt about the significance of facing east and also the sounds of the Arabic prayers and the body positions – I could tell some of the children were itching to get up and try for themselves!</p> <p>We finished off with some photos and then headed to the exit after saying a Farwell to Imam Hassan. As we were a few minutes late, the kind driver picked the children up from original drop off point, saving the children from having to walk to the cathedral (the second part of our Gloucester visit).</p> <p>Masjid E-Noor does have a new website which can be seen here - http://gloucestermosquevisit.co.uk/gallery/</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ned Hussain</p>	<p>Earlier this year North Nibley School received The School Games Award, Gold Standard in a special assembly. A representative of the School Games Association, Mr Jeffrey, presented the shield to a Year 6, reminding us that all schools are given a substantial financial grant to support our work in PE and Sport. However, we are one of only 5 schools in a district of more than 70 to achieve this high level of sporting achievement.</p> <p>The Gold Standard is not awarded for the winning of events, but rather for the number of events in which North Nibley participates; the level to which the children show encouragement and perseverance; and the extent to which they demonstrate the values of sportsmanship. All these are evident at tournaments because of the training that they all (from Reception to Year 6) receive at school.</p> <p>This is significant for many reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing – our specialist PE staff are, in part, funded by this grant. • Premises – some of this grant is used to maintain and upgrade our sporting facilities and equipment. • The Curriculum - undoubtedly, sport and PE create opportunities for any of our pupils to experience inclusion and success, irrespective of whether those children find academia a struggle. • The notability – in our attempt to be a small school with a big reputation, what better form of advertising can we ask for? <p>Long may we continue to have such awards visible in our Entrance Hall.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dawn Shepherd</p>