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*Here is the first 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, we talk to students about initiatives and projects they have been involved in. Currently the governors are immersed in preparing for an inspection anticipated late in the spring term. You can read more about this here. If you would like to talk to a governor either let the school office know or catch one of us at the school gate. We are here for the school community.*

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Sue Bradley-Jones (Chair)  
 Peter Hall (Vice-Chair)  
 Julie Collins  
 Emma Frith  
 Ned Hussain  
 Chris Huxley-Reynard  
 Mary Blogg  
 Jude Saunderson  
 Fiona Yarrow  
 Charlotte Parker  
 Abbie Lewis (Staff Member)  
 Paul Batchelor (Head Teacher)  
 (TWO VACANCIES)

## NORTH NIBLEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

### GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

The latest in our 'know your governors' series!

Mary Blogg is a newly appointed foundation governor in September 2018. Here she tells a bit about herself:

I have been working in the Higher Education sector for about 17 years and still thoroughly enjoy it. The vibrancy that the students bring and the range of things that I continually learn from my academic colleagues makes for a fascinating environment to work in. I work in an administrative capacity at the University of Bristol and have had a number of roles from a Student Administration Manager (handling things like Exam Processes, Student Welfare and Health and Safety) to Marketing Officer. I have also been a Project Officer working on a widening participation project where the primary objective was to encourage students from different parental backgrounds, that would not normally progress to higher education, study science subjects.



I currently have a daughter at the school and since she started I have gone into the school on a weekly basis to hear the children read. This is a fantastic way of getting to know both the school and the children in it, and it is so rewarding watching the children progress. Whenever I am not running a taxi service, working or being a mum, I like to keep fit and have some social time with friends.

I have joined the Teaching and Learning Committee of the governors; I feel as though this is really where I may be able to contribute the most and an area I am most interested in. As a new governor I have huge amounts to learn. One of the first things that has been brought to my attention is that the school will be going through a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) this year. (More about this below.)

Dr Charlotte Parker who has also joined the Governors this term as a parent governor and will be integral in representing the parent view to the governors.

#### SIAMS

Did you know that under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 all Church of England and Methodist schools have an additional inspection, the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS), as well as Ofsted? We had our last SIAMS inspection in May 2014.

### What does this mean for the School?

It is likely that in late spring or the summer of 2019 the school will undergo an inspection. The key question that the inspectors will be asking is; “How effective is the school’s distinctive Christian vision, established and promoted by leadership at all levels in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?” Our vision of, Learning, Achievement, Faith and Fun really does need to be espoused right through to the everyday things the school does.

### Making our vision come to life

The governors have begun to seek evidence of how our vision is realised in the everyday practice of the staff, students, parents and the governors themselves. We find it in the Friday School Assemblies when we come together as a community with parents. At that assembly, we recognise that the Open the Book team ask the children to enact scenes from the bible and a song is chosen to underline the message of the week. We also find physical evidence of our Christian values placed around the school with the banners in the entrance hall, and the Christian pictures in the hall. Prior to every meeting the governors have, a prayer is said, to remind them of the work that is about to be done and the importance of it. Our school community contributes positively and generously to society, through the various charitable events that are run. The governors have just begun the process of iterating these practices that the school naturally does. Can you think of any other examples? It is truly fascinating understanding how the School’s vision drives everything to the greater benefit of its community and we are sure that the challenge for passing the SIAMS inspection will be to make all of the things we naturally do, explicit!

### **Pollination Award**



The school was chosen as one of 260 schools nationally to transform their outdoor space into a pollinator-friendly habitat. The results of the children’s hard work can be seen by the sides of the playground. The project has encouraged our children to protect pollinating insects, with a dedication to increase the number and diversity of these species. Some of the obvious benefits include:

- Improving the environment
- Tidying up a piece of untended ground
- Teaching the children all about planting things and learning about insects, bugs and plants.

On speaking to some of the children who participated in the project some not so obvious benefits emerged; one persuaded her Nan to come to pollinators to help, another has begun to enjoy gardening at home and a third noticed how an apple tree is beginning to grow at home after dropping some seeds.

The children were very grateful for the help of Mrs Meyer who showed them beetles, earthworms, wasps and butterflies. A huge thank you also goes to Miss Allen for overseeing such a successful project. The children were all sad when the project came to an end but very much enjoyed the feast to celebrate the successful completion of the project. It is hoped that next spring the school will be observing and recording the number of pollinator insects to see if they have increased as a result of the work. The results of the observations will be fed back to a UK wide survey conducted by Imperial College.

### **Write Stuff**

The Governors would like to praise Mr Batchelor, the Teachers and Teaching Assistants for the initiative of celebrating the children’s writing through the Write Stuff Magazine. There is certainly a buzz around the school on publication date and it is truly wonderful to see parents and children talking about published works!

Whilst we are talking of writing; Ms Surridge read out some extremely emotional Remembrance day poems that Years 5 and 6 had written. The quality of the writing was so powerful. Progress is truly being made in this area.

### **And Finally.....**

Parents, please, please continue to provide the School and Governors with your views and inputs. Contribute to the school surveys, talk to the teachers or Mr Batchelor or speak to a governor. Your feedback helps shape the school into what it is today.