



## NORTH NIBLEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Here's a short round up of the governors' activities and focus this term:

- In response to the parent survey we've been more 'on show' through items in the school newsletter and assemblies
- In addition to our regular meetings (2 full Board and 7 committee meetings) we have focussed particularly on preparing for the SIAMS inspection and we've reviewed the school's homework policy in relation to those of other schools and advice on good practice.
- Next year's budget is being set, with some difficult decisions to make within ever tightening financial constraints
- A decision was made to publish the minutes of our Board meetings on the website – we already have proof that they are being read!
- One of our governors has had to take time off work for health reasons, but is now recovering, and we are grateful for her continued input in this period.

### Current Governors

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)

*Our most recently appointed governor is Dr Charlie Parker, appointed as a Parent Governor in November 2018. Here she gives some background about herself.*



I was born and brought up in Gloucestershire. My eldest son Cameron is now in the Reception class and he is loving going to school.

I have worked at the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham since 1998, and am now a Sociology Senior Lecturer there. What I love about Sociology is the ability to analyse the society we live within. The debates in the classroom can become very 'heated' as the adult learners, from a range of ages and backgrounds, bring together their academic knowledge as well as their life experiences.

As a Governor, I have joined the Teaching and Learning Committee. Working within Higher Education, it is interesting to obtain an insight into Primary Education. Although there are similarities (marking, preparing, working within national frameworks), I am a total novice with primary education and am enjoying leaning about another side of our education system. As a new Governor, there is a lot to learn and a lot to absorb but I am enjoying the insight that being a Governor awards. Overall, I am impressed at how the school empowers the children as learners, both within and beyond the classroom. I love watching this in action when I can make the Friday assemblies.

I also volunteer at Eastwood Park Prison approximately six days a year. I attend the Family Days, helping to ensure that babies, toddlers, children and teenagers feel comfortable in the prison when visiting their relative or friend.

The past two years have been both daunting and rewarding. Juggling full time work, being a mum to two young children, moving to a new community, the school runs, and Chip and Kipper definitely has its challenges. Choosing North Nibley as a school and as a wider community was definitely the right choice for us as a family and becoming a Parent Governor has confirmed this!

### Working in and with the local Community

The school is delighted and grateful to have been chosen as one of the beneficiaries of a legacy to the parish. Governors will receive this generous grant of £10,000 on behalf of the school at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>

## INSPECTION NEWS

We've been on tenterhooks all term awaiting our SIAMS inspection, but it never came! Staff have all been involved in thorough preparation for it and so will be ready for it next term instead.

'Nibbley' the Diocesan Sheep – helping children relate to 'The Good Shepherd'.



## CLASSROOM, ASSEMBLY, PLAYTIME, LUNCHTIME AND PREMISES VISITS

One of the key roles and responsibilities for the Governing Body is to monitor the progress and performance of the school. Governors make focused visits to school so they can build an effective working relationship with the staff and pupils, as well as have a better understanding of the context of the school. Visits are essential in facilitating appropriate challenge by the governing body as well as a means of offering timely support. Governors will be able to observe policies and plans being implemented on a day-to-day basis, and their findings should help the whole governing body and its committees to make well-informed judgments about their relevance and impact. Undertaking classroom visits demonstrates the Governors' role in the strategic management of the school by helping to hold the school to account and evaluate its progress. Through careful and corporate reflection, and consultation with professional staff, Governors are able to shape the provision of the school. The potential impact of regular visits should not be under-estimated. It is important for all parties to note that Governors' visits are not a form of inspection and do not involve Governors making a judgement about teaching in any official capacity. That remains the responsibility of the Headteacher and other education professionals.

### Visits enable Governors to:

- See the school at work and play, and observe the range of attitudes, behaviour and achievements
- Get to know the staff and demonstrate Governor commitment to the school
- Get to meet and chat with the children
- Give active support to the staff and the activities of the school
- Be aware of the effect of change and different approaches to teaching and learning
- Gain first-hand information to assist with policy making and decision taking
- Understand the ways in which the governing body's decisions and actions impact on the school as a whole.
- Evaluate resources and discuss with staff further requirements
- Work in partnership with the staff

**We currently have two governor vacancies! Details of this interesting role are on the website - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/governors-2018-2019/>**

### **Contacting Governors**

Finally, please do contact the governors directly if you have any comments or queries. We should always be pleased to hear from you. Governors are readily contactable. Send a letter or message via the School Office or email Sue Bradley-Jones - [chair@northnibley.gloucs.gov.uk](mailto:chair@northnibley.gloucs.gov.uk)