



NORTH NIBLEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Your Governors

Sue Bradley-Jones (Chair)
Mark Perry (Vice-Chair)
Rosie Casken
Julie Collins
Emma Frith
Peter Hall
Tom Merrifield
Jules Miller
Jude Saunderson
Fiona Yarrow
Charlotte Parker
Becci Surridge (Staff Member)
Paul Batchelor (Head Teacher)
(ONE VACANCY)

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APRIL, BASKET, BONNET,
BOUQUET, BUNNY,
CELEBRATION, CHICK,
CHOCOLATE, CROSS, CRUCIFY,
EASTER, GOD, HAPPY, HOLY,
JESUS, LENT, MIRACLE,
PARADE, RISEN

Governors' Report for the term

Despite the continuing prevalence of Covid infection nationwide, leading at times to high levels of staff and pupils' absence this term, the school has managed to keep working at full capacity, both in and out of the classroom. Once all government restrictions were dropped the school has had to make its own decisions about Covid safety measures, and was relieved when it felt it could finally abandon bubbles, reintroduce open Friday Assemblies and generally normalise activities. The good judgement of the head teacher, in liaison with the dedicated commitment of all the staff, and supported by the goodwill of the children and their families, have got the school successfully through another challenging term. The governors are proud to be part of such an impressive school community, and very much appreciate the extra effort made by you all.

One new staff appointment has been made, that of a teaching assistant to Class 2.

We are delighted to welcome Rosie Casken as a new governor. She will already be known to many of you at school from her presentations of 'Open the Book' at Friday Assemblies.

We have a governor vacancy currently, due to the resignation of Mary Blogg at the end of last term because of her increased domestic and work commitments. Mary was instrumental in instigating a major update of the school's IT system, and in developing the new school strategy. We thank her for her contributions and we will miss her.

A new school strategy: one of the governors' three statutory duties is to set the strategic direction of the school, (the other two being to hold the head teacher to account and to oversee the school budget.) The school's Improvement Plan is a short term strategy for focussing on areas of development, but it is some years since there has been a longer term strategy for the school's direction, so governors have recently developed one, after consultation with the staff and the community, and have chosen four priorities:

- Improve the teaching and learning of science,
- Ensure staff training and development remains a priority
- Place greater emphasis on the teaching and learning of music
- Strengthen the governance of the school, to ensure that the key roles of governors are carried out effectively

Each has some specific targets for progress in these areas. The strategy is 'rolling', so as one priority is considered to have achieved its aims a fresh one will be introduced. We will report regularly on how well this strategy is fulfilling its objectives. Wishing you all an enjoyable and sunny Easter break.

Sue Bradley-Jones, Chair of Governors, April 7, 2022.

Project to renew the school windows

I hope that your children will have been reporting back to you on the luxuriously warm and well lit class rooms they have been enjoying for most of this school year. These major heating and lighting improvements were largely organized and overseen by governor Fiona Yarrow, and now she has been instrumental in securing another much needed improvement, that of renewing the old and drafty school windows. Below she describes the project. Huge thanks to Fiona for her work on securing these improvements

The Governors are delighted to confirm that we have been successful with a bid to the School Condition Allocations (SCA) with funds paid to eligible bodies responsible for maintaining school buildings.

As a result, the Governors have been awarded circa £80,000 to replace the internal and external windows and doors throughout the School with the Governors being liable for a contribution of the cost from their Devolved Formula Capital (DFC), which is allocated for individual schools to spend on capital projects that meet their own priorities, and additionally for 10% of the value of the grant.

A Prioritised Maintenance Survey of the School identified the windows and doors as being priority work to prevent serious deterioration of the fabric or services and to improve the thermal efficiency of the building.

The grant aided work will complement the success of the rationalisation and renewal of the central heating system, which took place with the aid of SCA grant last year.

The School originally expressed its preference to install steel heritage frame windows and doors within the older part of the building to replace the existing crittall style windows and to allow for a more sympathetic upgrade to manage the architectural heritage of the site. However, the funding is limited to aluminium installations throughout due to the higher cost and reduced thermal efficiency of steel heritage compared to aluminium construction. The exceptions to this are the existing external timber doors to the older part of the building, which will be overhauled to retain an element of character to the building.

We are looking to complete this work over the Summer holiday to help further enhance the teaching, office and corridor space within the School to help make it more conducive to effective teaching, learning and administration.

Fiona Yarrow, governor.

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New governor, Rosie Casken, introduces herself:

As a newly appointed governor, it was suggested that I should introduce myself through the medium of this newsletter. My own introduction to North Nibley school came through my involvement with Open The Book assemblies which arose initially from my role as Chapel Development Worker in Nibley. However, this is something I have been delighted to continue with – even after my second attempt at retirement last autumn! My principal career has been in education, teaching first in this area at HMP Leyhill and then at a Yate secondary school.



I confess that it took me a while to feel relaxed about an assembly audience of Primary aged children! Happily for me, pupils (and staff) at North Nibley have been unfailingly supportive and encouraging and it was clear from the outset what a very special school it is. I was thrilled when my grandson secured a place in reception last September and his enthusiasm for school and his evident enjoyment of it have been wonderful to see.

I agreed to become a Foundation Governor in January. As such, my particular responsibility is to ensure that the school retains its distinctive Christian ethos. (My own church allegiance is split between St Martin's and St Mary's in Kingswood where my husband, Pat, and I live.) Fundamental roles of a governor involve attending strategic decision making meetings and, I have discovered, an awful lot of time spent reading policy documents! The best part is, undoubtedly, being able to visit the school and meet its pupils. I am to be attached to the present year 2 children and I am really looking forward to getting to know them. I know that it is going to involve quite a bit of work, but it is a privilege to be a governor at North Nibley and I am so proud to be associated with the school in this way. *ROSIE.*

Governors are readily contactable.

Send a letter or message via the School Office or email Sue Bradley-Jones - chair@northnibley.gloucs.gov.uk