

Governing Body Newsletter

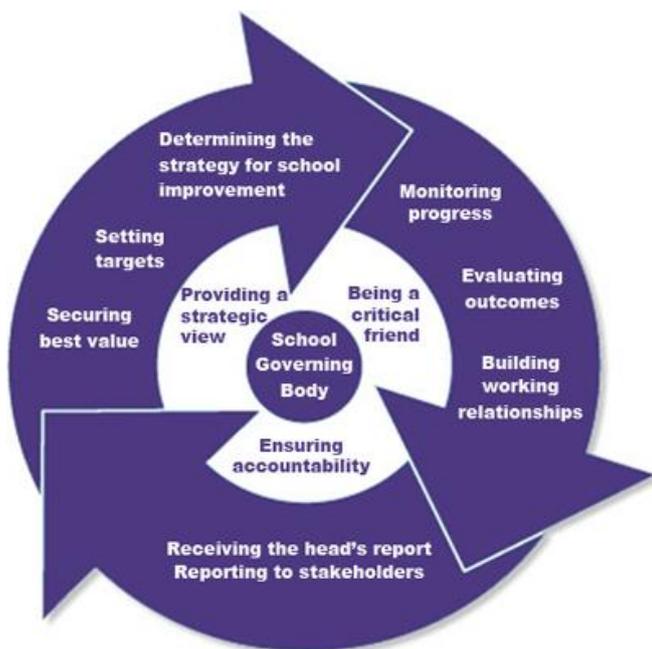
Academic Year 2017-2018



DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

Welcome to our first annual newsletter! As we approach the end of Term 6, we would like to share with you what the Governing Body has been doing this year to ensure all children are receiving the best possible education. We would also love to proudly share with you the school's successes and the children's achievements.

What does your governing body do?



You can find out more about us and what we do on the Governors page of the school website.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Every year the Teachers, Head Teacher, and Governing Body agree a plan that sets out the areas needing most improvement. This year our school's priorities were reading, writing, developing our subject leaders, and science. Throughout the year, your children might have noticed governors in school, visiting to monitor the progress of these four SDP areas. Our visits involve objectively and critically looking at anonymized workbooks and data, displays, planning, and the learning environments, as well as talking with Mr Shawley, the Teachers, and the children. This year our SDP visits have taught us that:

- the new reading scheme introduced last year for years 2-6 is going well and helping to build more independent and investigative readers;
- a love of reading is being worked on through inter-year paired reading, family reading events, and class novels;
- children in all year groups are writing in a variety of genres and are well supported in their improvement;
- there is sufficient support for children of all abilities;
- there is evident progress in books throughout the year;
- the teachers and subject leaders are very familiar with each child's progress needs and next steps;
- teachers work cooperatively and share knowledge and experience;
- when there are concerns about progress there are clear plans for what needs to be done;
- the science curriculum was reviewed, new science materials and resources were purchased, and the science lessons have shown improvement;
- children became more investigative in their science lessons as the year went on and this will continue to be a focus for improvement;
- the outside areas and the restored pond are used to great advantage for science lessons;
- your children are very well behaved and extremely polite to visitors!

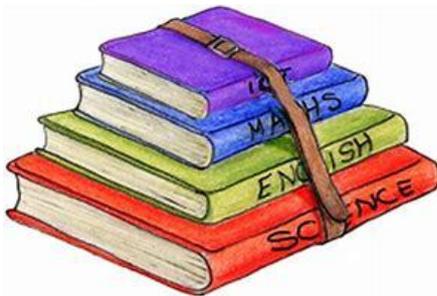
“Where learning is fun”

We asked groups of children about their school on our visits this year, and we loved the genuine excitement and enthusiasm with which they confidently gave us examples of how and what they learn.

GOVERNOR CHANGES

This year we have been delighted to welcome on board three new governors, bringing with them valuable skills and fresh enthusiasm:

Richard Dobbs, grandad to Alice and Joseph and a former parent governor, joined us as a Foundation Governor; **Victoria Huggins**, mum to Freya and Lyla, and Chair of Ladybirds Preschool, joined us as a Parent Governor; and **Joy Ingle**, granny to Gracie and a retired primary teacher, joined us as a Co-opted Governor. We will be sad to say goodbye to **Samantha Dossett**, whose term as a Parent Governor ends later this year. Her eight years of hard work and specialization in the progress of SEND and Pupil Premium groups have been invaluable. We have also said goodbye to **Rev Sweeting**, who stood down as Foundation Governor due to his increased workload. He will still deliver his weekly assemblies to the children and the Diocese are working on finding a new governor.



How do Governors ensure we know the school?

Other than through formal visits and meetings, Mr Shawley also reports to us every term on what has been happening in school and updates us on learning, attendance, and behaviour. There are always governors at all school events and parents' evenings - many of us are current/past parents or grandparents and are aware of the primary school experiences of our own and other children. Being part of a small school means that the links and experiences within the school community are naturally shared and close, and we are proud to be a part of that.

REPORTING AND CHALLENGING

Governors have visited the school every term this year to check on safeguarding, health & safety, finance, Sports Premium, and the progress of children with special educational needs, children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, Looked After children, and children with English as an Additional Language. Their findings have been reported to the full Governing Body and whenever there have been areas of concern, governors have challenged the school on the reasons, discussed how improvements will be made, and followed up on progress at a later date.

SATs “...help measure the progress pupils have made...” and “...help assess schools performance”

Information for Parents: 2018 national curriculum tests at the end of KS1 and KS2. Standards & Testing Agency, www.gov.uk

Love them or hate them, our school's SATs and Phonics results are in for this year. EYFS, KS1 phonics, KS1 end of stage SATs and KS2 end of year SATs were either all in-line with schools nationally or above. A great achievement by all. Well done.

Did you enjoy this first newsletter? Do you like the idea of an annual review or would you like to see more frequent newsletters? Do you have worries, questions, or ideas relating to the school? Please let us know your thoughts by contacting the school office or catching a Governor on the playground. Wishing you and your children a wonderful summer! **And warmest wishes to the Year 6 children moving up to secondary – carry on smiling and shining!**

Kind regards,

Miren, Bryn, Sam, Victoria, Richard, Joy, Alice, James
Governing Body
St Bartholomew's CE Primary School