

**“Quality education brings confidence and independence”**

# Governors Newsletter Norwood School

**Issue 1  
February 2007**



**Reg Miller  
Chair of Governors**

Reg has been a parent governor at Norwood School for over 4 years and currently is a community governor. He was elected Chair of Governors in September 2007 after being Chair of the Personnel and Vice Chair of Governors. Reg has three children, two attend Norwood school.



**Bethan Charles  
Vice Chair of Governors**

Bethan has been a governor at Norwood School since July 2005. Bethan is Chair of Personnel and was elected as Vice Chair in September 2007. Bethan has a child who is due to start school in September 2007.

## Reg Miller - an introduction

I am pleased to launch the first issue of our Governors Newsletter. Our aim is to inform parents each term about the work of the governing body at Norwood School.

Taking over from such a well respected and experienced Chair of Governors as Alan Jackson was quite an undertaking and I am grateful for all the support I have had from Mr Evans, Staff and my fellow governors helping me settle into the role. When I became a Governor my views as a parent were somewhat different. I did not always understand or agree with the reasons behind some of the communication from our school. However after 4 years, I now have a greater understanding of the immense tasks facing all staff, having to sometimes make difficult, but in the end, rewarding decisions about the future of our children.

The first term was very eventful culminating with the successful selection of our new Headteacher, Mrs Deborah Reynolds, who will be working closely with Mr Evans, Staff and Governors to ensure a smooth handover in the Autumn term 2007. I thank staff and Governors for their dedication to the success our children's education and parent/carers for supporting the School and ultimately your children's future successes.

## Governor Open Forums

As a part of our aim to improve communication with parent/carers, we would like you to feel comfortable about drawing our attention to any issues that affect you, our children or Norwood School as a whole. With this in mind we felt it would help if parent/carers had an opportunity of meeting some of the Governing body at the next round of parent evenings on the 26<sup>th</sup> February and 1<sup>st</sup> March.

We therefore extend an open invitation for you to pop into the open forums either before or after the meeting you will be attending with your child's teacher. I am also pleased to say that our new Headteacher, Mrs Deborah Reynolds, will be with us for both evenings to introduce herself to as many of you as possible. In the meantime governors can be contacted via Norwood School's office.

## Paul Osker - The views of a newly appointed Governor

In September my son, Aaron, started Norwood School in Reception class. Like all parents my wife and I were proud, but I was especially pleased to be sending him to the same school that I attended, all those years ago, back in 1978. It was at this time that I decided I would like, if possible, to become a Parent Governor.

Well it is now January and I was successful; I am now that Parent Governor and I am directly involved in making important decisions that will shape the School's future. Already I have seen the selection process for a new Head Teacher take place and I am involved in discussions relating to the selection of a new Deputy Head Teacher. I attend Finance Meetings deciding where the School's funds are best spent and Personnel Meetings looking at a wide range of issues.

As a Parent Governor I now have some degree of influence over my, and your, children's education whilst at Norwood School and that is exactly why I wanted to stand. Although I have only been involved for a couple of months I can see how important it is, to a school's success, to have a strong Governing body, which we are lucky to have at this School. I am happy in the knowledge, that Norwood School is dedicated to providing the very best for all our children.

### Bethan Charles - On being a Governor at Norwood School.

I have taught within Peterborough for 12 years and was Deputy Head at my last school. Currently I am taking a career break to look after my family and I wanted to stay in touch with the education system by working with my local school, so I volunteered to become a Community Governor. I have enjoyed learning about Norwood school through this work and I also think it has helped me feel a greater part of the neighbourhood in the Gunthorpe area, where I have lived for the past 8 years.

From my governing body role I have been able to attend several school functions and see the high expectations of the children and how well the children live up to these. I have been on a couple of out of school visits with the children, and I am keen to observe at first hand the benefits of these hands-on experiences. It is always a pleasure to visit the classes within school and see the high level of education they receive there.

Last summer I taught the Year 6 children 'Safer Cycling', ably assisted by Mrs Frost, encouraging them to ride correctly on the roads and encouraging their safety by using the correct techniques and rules of the road...in addition to always wearing their helmets!

The first 20 months of my term as a governor have been fascinating and I look forward to some equally interesting and productive times.

### Headteacher appointment process

The process we embarked upon in October 2006 was put together by the Headteacher selection committee who were delegated the task by the Governing Body. The committee comprised Bethan Charles, Sue Scott, Nigel Smith, Nicola Brooks and myself, Reg Miller, with support from our school secretary Cate Wells, and the Local Authority advisors.

The committee worked extremely hard to secure Mrs Deborah Reynolds as the right candidate for Headteacher over the two months leading up to December. The actual two-day process started on 7<sup>th</sup> December with our four candidates arriving for coffee and a tour of the school by two children. There was then a group activity, which proved to be very interesting seeing how individuals operated within the group.

Three individual activities were then held including a school council group of our very bright and clever children who asked very direct questions that they had written. In fact when we first read them we were astonished and momentarily joked about using them ourselves. The other two activities were an in-tray exercise to prioritise and deal with possible scenarios Headteachers face on a daily basis and a finance activity that tested candidates knowledge of school budgets.

Each candidate then took a psychometric test that was adjudicated by an external advisor. After school our four candidates met all the staff that could attend, at an informal get together; that also proved to be informative. At the end of our very busy day, we considered and concluded our findings; deciding to ask two candidates back for a formal interview the next day and as they say the rest is history.

### Deputy Head update

The selection committee remains the same. However, we now have the advantage of Mrs Reynolds playing a pivotal role in the process of selecting a Deputy Head. This started in January with our target dates for interviews later in March. Mrs Reynolds has already begun meeting with Mr Evans, staff and Governors to gain a greater understanding of our school and discuss the strategy for our children's continued progress and the successful handover in the Autumn. We cannot say any more about the process before the event but will update you once the process is complete. I thank everyone involved for their enthusiasm, time and commitment... an outstanding effort!

### Finance committee update

At a recent committee meeting to review Norwood's budgets, Mr Evans fed back information from the Local Authority (LA) finance briefing which indicated that our allocated funding should remain the same, if not increase slightly for the new school year; our final figures will be confirmed by the LA later in the term.

We confirmed that the mobile classroom is to be renovated with works scheduled around Fun Base's requirements...Local Councillors donated funds that were allocated to replace four laptops for use in classrooms and refurbishment of the remaining four cloakrooms and toilets should be scheduled for the summer holidays as they have been in need of a face lift for some time now. We also reviewed Norwood's current year's expenses and the budget is in line with our expectations set out last year.

We hope that you have found this newsletter informative and interesting. If you have any comments/suggestions please send them via email to [tricia@triciapengelly.co.uk](mailto:tricia@triciapengelly.co.uk) or via the school office.

Norwood School Governors

Community Governors  
Reg Miller  
Bethan Charles

Headteacher  
Viv Evans

Teacher Governor  
Sue Scott

Parent Governors  
Sarah Betambeau  
Warren Fenwick  
Paul Osker  
Nigel Smith

Staff Governor  
Sharon Spillett

LEA Governors  
Nicola Brooks  
Tricia Pengelly