



## Governors' Newsletter

Dec 2009

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As we come to the end of the first term of this academic year, I think we can say it has been a very busy and fruitful time. School has seen many changes this term, and the staff and children continue to show why Norwood School has such a positive family feel. I am very proud of how every individual staff member and child has responded so positively to recent experiences. We would like to thank all the parent/carers for all your support while different arrangements have been made for the care of your children.

We are very pleased to see how well our new members of staff have fitted in, Miss Heatherington, Miss Benson, Mrs Locke, Mrs McMillan and Miss Perkins. There have also been some new children and it is always nice to see how quickly they settle into their new school, particularly the reception class.

Much of the governing body work this term has been to maintain our standards and we were pleased to see that yet again we were listed in the top 10 of the primary schools in Peterborough. League tables are not the only indicator of a good school but should be taken as a part of the complete picture.

Our particular aims this year are to support the curriculum work led by the school, implement our Finance Action plan, monitor our Health and Safety provision and as always review lots of policies!!!

The Governing Body has also seen some adjustments within our structure. With some of the changes within school we felt it would be beneficial for Sarah Betambeau to move over to be one of our LA governors and to keep her experience and training within the governing body, which now creates a space for a new Parent Governor. There will be further details on this after Christmas but if you or anyone you know would be able to commit time to support and steer the school further, please feel free to contact a governor or the Head teacher through the school for more details as to what the role entails. Have a lovely Christmas break.

**Bethan Charles, Chair**

## Safeguarding Children

Obviously the Governing Body has many responsibilities to the children and staff of the school. We take very seriously the duty of Safeguarding your child while they are in our care.

Frequently we remind you of the issues around not using the car park and the inadequate provision for the safe parking of cars around the school - the Governing Body often has discussions about what we can do to improve this and the Local Authority are helping us to investigate suggestions.

We have also been looking into the best way to make our field a safe place for the children to play on and have their PE lessons uninterrupted - we are now hoping the public meeting to discuss this will be in January, but this will be announced soon. Please come and share your views.

Also, currently we are aware there are issues surrounding the lack of school crossing cover, particularly in the afternoons. The school does not employ these officers so when there is an absence the Local Authority are responsible for supplying cover, which does not always happen. The Governing Body is in communication regarding this although any parent is also permitted to contact them.

## **School Lunch and Governor Link Year 3 visit.**

I had the pleasure as part of my involvement with Governing Body to visit the school this term for a class visit to Year 3, to see how the children are progressing in the new academic year.

Before the class visit, I joined the children for a school dinner. I wanted to see at firsthand what the dinners were like, which are supplied by the CCS. Recently they (CCS) have changed the service school receives, so this was an opportunity to see at firsthand any affect this had on standards, supply, choice and quality.

I purposely chose to go in last to see if this had any effect on the choice I was given. For the main meal I was offered both options, and a choice of Pudding. I'm aware that this isn't always the case, and is something the school and the governing body is looking into.

I'll say the meal was quite nice, and the pudding most certainly reminded me of when I was having school dinners. Fond memories indeed!

The class visit was undertaken in the afternoon. After the register Miss Perkins took the class into the garden to plant some bulbs and pansies ready for the spring and summer. It will look lovely when they start to bloom. Other

than the distraction of a local cat, the children were clearly enjoying the activity and the fact they were outside was exciting for them and a pleasure to witness the faces. It did strike me at the time it was good to have the children outside, as it is different from classroom learning.

I'm looking forward to the next class visit, and of course Spring time when we can all see the children's hard work pay off.

**Warren Fenwick - parent governor**

### **Communication**

One of the action points of our Ofsted visit in November 2007 was that parents felt communication could be improved from school. You may remember we then undertook a questionnaire from the whole parent/carer body. Since then we have implemented the use of Parentmail and increased the number of newsletters. We have also put a suggestions box in place and communicated other questionnaires on other matters. We plan at some stage this academic year to repeat the original exercise and find out if you feel we have improved with this action point.

## **Governing Body**

### **Chair of Governors**

Bethan Charles - Community Governor

### **Vice Chair**

Nigel Smith - LA Governor

Deborah Reynolds - Head Teacher

Fiona Watt - Staff Governor

Sharon Spillet - Staff Governor

Sarah Betambeau - LA Governor

Rev Clive Deverell - Community Governor

Jane Mullan - Community Governor

Vacancy - Parent Governor

Warren Fenwick - Parent Governor

Paul Osker - Parent Governor

Caroline Rickards - Parent Governor

**Clerk to the Governing Body  
Suzanne Arnold**

**All governors can be contacted via**

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