



Governors' Newsletter

March 2010

At last there seems to be signs of spring finally arriving and that long cold winter is behind us...not convinced we'll ever get a proper summer again though! Life at Norwood is as busy as ever and we have had more changes both within the staffing and governing body.

Hot off the press is the announcement of Jane Swift as our new Deputy Head. The governors, staff and children all put the candidates through a 2 day grueling selection process last week. Jane has been working hard in the role for the last two terms and we are pleased she proved herself outstanding in such a strong field of candidates.

Since our last newsletter we have also seen the departure of Kim Benson and Year 5 have welcomed their new teacher Rachel Wheatley, who has settled in very well.

The governing body has said goodbye to Caroline Guest Rickards after an 18 month spell on board and welcomes the new-comers of Heather Jolley and Annie Gill. Warren Fenwick has also renewed his term of office.

The Governing Body would also like to thank the staff in advance for their efforts in preparing for the curriculum evening for Thursday 25th March.

Hope we all get good weather for the Easter break.

Bethan Charles, Chair

Safeguarding Children Update

We are often using our newsletters to remind you of the need to support the school in the safeguarding of your children, particularly through the use of the car park. This remains a major concern of the school especially in the light of a near miss with a child recently - **PLEASE** remember the car park is **NOT** a pedestrian access to the school and to use the entrances on Coniston Road or the 2 on Elter Walk for you and your child to arrive and leave school in safety.

We recently held a meeting at the school to discuss the fence issue with the local residents, thank you to all those who were able to attend. The

situation is ongoing with a panel of relevant representatives discussing the best way forward. They have held initial meetings so far and we are confident the school will be able to have a secure school field in time for the summer term.

One unrelated issue that local residents are concerned about is the difficulty with access to their own property during the school run time of day. If you do have to drive your child to school, please be considerate to local residents, businesses and pedestrians about where you park and how you drive. We appreciate parking is limited on such a busy road, and we are discussing ways of improving this in the future.

There have been on-going issues with the crossing patrol, we currently have cover for the afternoons until the end of the summer term - if parent/carers know of anyone interested in helping out with this in the future please contact the Local Authority through www.do-it.org.uk/oppdetails.do?id=1405306

School Profile

This has been updated for the academic year of 09/10 and can be found from the link at www.norwoodschoo.co.uk.

Thank you to Paul Osker for taking responsibility for this.

Financial Benchmarking

The aim of the benchmarking report is to compare Norwood school with other similar sized schools up and down the country, comparing processes, results for particular cohort groups and general information, with the aim to see where our standing is within the wider country. The current data has shown a dramatic positive improvement between 2007 and 2009.

On the 4th March 2009, Norwood school was in the Upper quartile for expenditure in a per pupil and a per teacher ratio in 4 out of 6 categories. However on 25th January 2010, (when the data was next updated) Norwood had reduced this to 0 in the 6 categories and in fact were in 4 of the lower quartile.

Regarding results data for achievement Norwood both in 2008 and 2009 achieved Upper Quartile status.

This is a positive financial indicator of the school receiving value for money. Continued analysis of this data will take place and updated shared when available. Within this further analysis, Norwood will start to look into other

reports and information to be compared to the wider country schools and of course all information will be shared. If anyone would like to discuss these results further please contact the governing body via the school.

Warren Fenwick (Parent Governor)

New Governor

I appreciate being given the chance to serve as a parent governor at Norwood School, and would like to take this opportunity of giving you a little insight into my background.

I moved to Peterborough 15 years ago when I married my husband. I worked as a Direct Marketing Associate for a firm in Peterborough until the end of 1999, when I had my first daughter Emily. I then became a stay at home mum, having Lucy in 2003. Both of my children attend Norwood School.

As well as still being a stay at home mum, I now spend my time helping to look after my elderly grandmother and donating as much of my time as possible to the school in various ways.

I hope my role as parent governor will enable me to help the school continue to achieve the very best that they can for all of our children.

Annie Gill (Parent Governor)

Governing Body

Chair of Governors

Bethan Charles - Community Governor

Nigel Smith - LA Governor & Vice Chair

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

Warren Fenwick - Parent Governor

Paul Osker - Parent Governor

Annie Gill - Parent Governor

Heather Jolley - Parent Governor

Clerk to the Governing Body

Suzanne Arnold

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