



Governors' Newsletter

March 2009

It's good to see the days getting longer and the weather warmer - we hope! Thank you to all parents for their support during the snowy weather before the half term break.

Ofsted paid us a visit this week to support their investigations into how National Strategies are being taught in primary schools. We were very pleased with their comments and will share them with parent/carers as soon as it is in print.

School continues to build on the success of previous years and especially with the delivery of Read Write Inc to the younger children showing the pupil's progress to be very positive. The children in Y1/2 are now benefiting from a similar approach to Numeracy.

We welcome a new teaching member of staff in Miss Watts who has settled well into Year 5.

The governing body continues to meet regularly and this

term we have been looking at monitoring several aspects within school - reports of some are mentioned later.

Bethan Charles Chair

School Profile

The School profile, (which replaced the previous Governors' Annual Report) is updated each year by the governors together with the Head teacher. It communicates with parent/carers about the school's progress, priorities and performance. It also includes data provided and updated by the DCSF on an annual basis and a summary of the latest Ofsted report. Norwood school profile for the last full academic year i.e. 2007/2008 may be found by following the link on the school web site www.norwoodschool.co.uk sub-heading School profile.

Tricia Pengelly

School Lunches

One of the governing bodies tasks is to ensure that our hot school meals, which are supplied by Cambridgeshire Catering Services, meet the National Standards laid down by the Government.

This task was given to me; unfortunately I was not required to taste any of the

food, but merely to check that our menus meet the nutritional standards. I would like to thank our cook Mrs Thurgood for her help and co-operation in allowing me to go through her freezer checking the ingredients contained in various ready prepared foods.

I am happy to report that our school meals do indeed meet the required standards.

Sharon Spillett - Staff governor

New Governor

I have been a parent at Norwood for 3 years and have been involved in supporting the hardworking fundraising committee. By becoming a Governor I am looking forward to spending my time as constructively as possible learning alongside the children as to what makes Norwood such an exceptional school. I am also looking forward to experiencing my first school dinner for many years!

In my previous life I have worked in many industries but predominately within the hospitality & catering industry and the vocational training industry. I have volunteered for a local charity for the last 6 years and continue to support the work they do by helping out

at special events throughout the year.

I have also spent nearly 2 years of my 'younger' life travelling around the world. I now work as a self-employed demonstrator teaching people within the craft industry.

A mixed past I know but one that has taught me lots of valuable lessons which I hope will enable me to carry out my role as a Parent Governor to its fullest potential and support the established and experienced team at Norwood School achieve only the very best for our children.

Caroline Rickards

Benchmarking

As Norwood School continues to ensure its mission statement is adhered to, "*We offer excellent educational opportunities to all children through the high quality of our staff, curriculum, accommodation and resources*" the governing body has started a benchmarking process.

The aim of the benchmarking report is to compare Norwood school and its financial activity, with other similar sized schools up and down the country, comparing processes, results for particular year groups and general information, with the aim to see where our standing is within the wider country.

Feedback from this exercise will be hopefully available in the next newsletter, or indeed published on the website, once complete.

Warren Fenwick

Integrated Curriculum

The Integrated curriculum, which was introduced in the Autumn term, seeks to bring in a number of subjects under the umbrella of one theme per half term. Each theme has a main focus on Science, History or Geography, as well as linking learning in all other curriculum areas. It also sets out four Core Learning Skills per half term.

As the link governor for Integrated Curriculum, I visited Year 5 last term, whose topic was the Tudors. I experienced the way in which exploration of this topic involved a number of subject/learning skills and the enthusiasm of staff and pupils. This was followed up by a visit to Burleigh House when Year 5 experienced a Tudor Christmas and learnt a great deal about the way of life in Tudor times.

Tricia Pengelly

Governing Body

Chair of Governors

Bethan Charles - Community Governor

Vice Chair

Nigel Smith - LA Governor

Deborah Reynolds - Head Teacher

Mat Warn - Staff Governor

Sharon Spillet - Staff Governor

Patricia Pengelly - LA Governor

Rev Clive Deverell - Community Governor

Jane Mullan - Community Governor

Sarah Betambeau - Parent Governor

Warren Fenwick - Parent Governor

Paul Osker - Parent Governor

Caroline Rickards - Parent Governor

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