



Shepherd Primary School Governor Newsletter

Newsletter 3, March 2019

Welcome to the latest Governor Newsletter! I would like to update you on what the Governing Body has been doing so far this term.

Governing Body

I am delighted to announce that Dave Hewitt has been appointed as one of our new Parent Governors. Many thanks to Dave for volunteering for the role, I'm certain you'll be a valuable addition to the team.



"With very happy memories from my own time at Primary School, it seems only natural, now with two children of my own, to do what I can to help their school memories also. In running my own business, I am organised, budget competent, have sound judgement, good people and communication skills. I would love the opportunity to help contribute to the success of Shepherds, its education and the wellbeing of all its pupils and staff."

Sadly, Oliver Parvin's term of office has now come to an end. The Governing Body would like to extend our thanks to Oliver for his dedication and support over the past 4 years. During his time as a parent governor and then Chair, the school has moved from strength to strength, and this has been reflected in the hugely positive Ofsted inspection last year.



I have been appointed as Chair of Governors and Padmini Naicker has been appointed as Vice Chair. We are very excited (and a little nervous!) to be taking on these important roles and look forward to continuing to improve the provision offered and outcomes for the school.

Governors role... What do we do?

Our goal is to empower Shepherd Primary School in supporting and challenging its pupils to achieve in all aspects of life, by providing an inspirational learning experience, in a stimulating environment. We aim to achieve this through working in partnership with our Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team, our governor colleagues and the entire school community.

We are recruiting a new Parent Governor, can you help?



We are looking for a committed parent who can bring energy, new ideas and enthusiasm to help us drive the school forward.

During the year we meet regularly to discuss all aspects of school life, including the curriculum, pupils' progress and attainment, safeguarding and to help make decisions regarding the school premises, finances, personnel and health and safety.

You don't need to have a background in education, just a desire to support your school and a commitment to improving the outcomes for all our pupils.

Please contact us via the school office if you would like to find out more about the role!



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School Improvement Priorities



This term, we have met with Key Stage leaders to discuss progress towards our School Improvement Priorities for the year. Governors were particularly impressed with initiatives such as the provision of a breakfast bar in Early Years to ensure all children start the day ready to learn and to promote independence in our youngest pupils.

Improving Progress in Reading is another key priority. Reading regularly has huge benefits in developing vocabulary and helps significantly with the quality of written work. Governors were invited to meet with a number of pupils on World Book Day and we were excited to hear their views on reading. We discussed their favourite books, how reading is taught in school and what we could do to make this even better. We have some great ideas to take back to the next governors meeting!



Five ways to wellbeing

We are also looking at ways to **improve the wellbeing of our school community**. Staff and pupils have been invited to share their views on what they enjoy most about school life and what more could be done to support their wellbeing.

Pupils enjoy the range of after school clubs and extra curricular activities provided by the school. Achievements are celebrated on the school blog, in celebration assemblies and via "Star of the Week" postcards to parents. With the help of PTA funding we are training Play Leaders and investing in Playground Buddy equipment to ensure all children can participate in games during break and lunch times. We also have strong partnerships with external agencies such as our Family Worker and School Councillor to complement our wellbeing program.

Strong progress has already been made against our School Improvement Priorities and we look forward to continuing this good work.



Sarah McAllister
Chair of Governors



Padmini Naicker
Vice Chair of Governors