



Shepherd Primary School Governor Newsletter

Newsletter 1, September 2018

Welcome to the new Governor Newsletter! We have decided to write a half-termly newsletter to keep parents, staff and stakeholders up to date on the activities of the Governing Body and to help you get to know your Governors and learn more about the work we do in school.

Firstly, I would like to welcome you all back after the summer break and give a special welcome to the new staff and families who have joined the Shepherd's flock. As well as our new Reception children, we have 7 new members of staff and 9 pupils who have joined in other years. We look forward to getting to know you and wish you a happy and successful time at Shepherd Primary School.

Meet the Governors

The Full Governing Body is made up of representatives from the school staff, parents and the local community.



Claire Foad
Head Teacher



Rebecca Whiteman
Deputy Head
Teacher



Oliver Parvin
Chair of Governors



Sarah McAllister
Vice Chair



Padmini Naicker
Parent Governor



James Newman
Parent Governor



Liz Townsend
Parent Governor



Sarah Freuchen
Staff Governor



Vacancy
Co-Opted Governor



Tony Humphreys
Co-Opted Governor



Diana Barber
Co-Opted Governor



Vij Ditcher-Gajparia
Co-Opted Governor



Andrew Charter
Co-Opted Governor



Tracey Middleton
Clerk

We are delighted to welcome Liz Townsend as our newly elected Parent Governor. Many of you will already know Liz as she has worked tirelessly as the Vice Chair of the PTA over the past 5 years, but has now decided take on the challenge of becoming a Governor. She will be a welcome addition to our team. We also sadly have to say Thank you and Goodbye to Richard Booth, Richard has been an invaluable member of the Governing Body for the last 4 years and has brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to the team. With The Reach Free School moving into their new site in Mill End, we're sure Richard will be a frequent visitor to the school and look forward to working together on future projects. Richard's departure has left a vacancy for a Co-Opted Governor – this is an individual from the local community who would like to volunteer to join the Governing Body – if you know anyone who might be interested in this opportunity, please contact us for more details.



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Coffee Mornings

Many thanks to all of the parents and carers who attended the Governor Coffee Mornings which Mrs Foad and Miss Whiteman ran last term, alongside members of our Governing Body. We hope you found these useful and informative. It was certainly a great opportunity for us as Governors to get to know you better and hear your views and ideas on our school.



The after-school clubs, our partnership with Watford Football Club, the special themed days and the range of school trips offered were well appreciated and as a result of your feedback the school are offering cookery and drama clubs this term. We are also going to hold a Multicultural Day to celebrate the range of cultures and heritages represented in our school community.



Feedback was very positive about the Daily Mile initiative - this is part of the daily routine for Years 1-6. The children have 15 minutes to walk or run around the field or playground as many times as they can. This has been shown to have huge benefits not only to their physical health but also their ability to concentrate and learn once they return to the classroom.

Mrs Foad is planning dates for future Coffee Mornings, starting after October half term.

Murals



We would like to thank Mrs Foad for arranging the beautiful murals which have been painted in the KS2 building. Each represents a different geographical area and they are a stunning and inspiring addition to the school.





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Focus for 2018/2019



We will be busy visiting the school over the next few weeks to focus on the school's priorities for the year ahead, which include those targets set by Ofsted when they inspected the school in March 2018. This is a vital opportunity for governors to get to know staff and pupils and to experience the school environment first hand. We will be concentrating on improving progress in reading, improving attendance, reducing the attainment gap between boys and girls in Early Years and the wellbeing of staff and pupils. Progress has already been made in many of these areas and we will be building on the hard work of last year to achieve these goals.



All the governors are linked to a particular area and over the next few newsletters each of us will have the opportunity to introduce ourselves and explain a bit more about our roles and responsibilities.

We are looking forward to an exciting and challenging year ahead.

Sarah McAllister
Vice-Chair of Governors

Oliver Parvin
Chair of Governors