



PARKGATE INFANTS GOVERNOR GOSSIP

AUTUMN 2014

Parkgate Infants and Nursery School
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Welcome to the Parkgate Infants and Nursery School Governors' newsletter.

It is an aim of our school's governing body to improve communication and links between governors, staff, parents and children. Hopefully this newsletter will meet part of this aim.

In this newsletter we are going to share our School Development Plan for 2014-15, remind you of who's who on the Governing Body and give an overview of what the Governors have been working on and how this affects the school.

We would like to extend a welcome to the new school year to all our students and parents, new and old, and we hope you have settled well in your new classes.

What have we achieved recently as a Governing Body?

- In our busy Summer term we were proud to approve the purchase of the school Library Bus. It is now in place and will soon be a usable space for children and staff. It is hoped that this fantastic addition to the school will promote reading as an enjoyable pastime for our children in this age of tablets and computer games.
- We have worked with Herts County Council to finally have a leak-free roof.
- Our role in aiding the Senior Leadership Team to set an Improvement Plan for the school included meeting with the SLT and our School Improvement Partner to agree a way forward for the school.
- We have had discussions about parents parking unsafely and discourteously in Northfield Gardens and Swanley Court. We are still undecided about what action to take on this.

What is the role of a Governor at Parkgate Infants?

Our Governors are a group of volunteers who include parents, staff and members of our local community. Our main role is to promote and sustain improvements in standards throughout the school. We help Miss Lawrence, Mr Pritchard and the staff to plan the school's long-term direction and we evaluate progress. We help set the school's aims and values and are responsible for some staff appointments, including the Head. Many of our responsibilities carry a statutory requirement. This means we are obliged by law to do things such as agree the annual budget. Our role is sometimes described as a 'critical friend'. This does not mean that we are there to *criticise* the Head or the school. Instead we try to ask useful questions to gain a greater understanding of the school and to foster an ethos of continuous improvement.

Who we are ...

We're all a pretty friendly bunch. Five of us are parents and can regularly be seen on the school run. Please feel free to stop any one of us in the playground (or anywhere else for that matter!) with any question you might have about the school. If we don't know the answer there and then, we'll know someone who does. You may also write to us. Just hand your letter in to the office and they will forward it.

Parent Governors:

Mr Paul Burke – Vice Chair, Facilities Manager and parent of Betsy in Nursery

Mrs Christine Holling – Music Teacher and parent of Rhianna in Year 1

Mrs Catherine Tyack – Civil Servant and parent of Eva in Year 2

Mrs Tracey Hudson – Mathematics Teacher and parent of Connor & Finn in Year 2

Mrs Beth Dyson – Museum/Education Researcher and parent of Alice in Year 1

Staff Governors:

Miss Ann Lawrence – Headteacher

Mr Gwyn Pritchard – Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Pat Parr – Library Assistant

LEA Governors:

Mr Malcolm Curry – Fabrication Engineer

Mr Andy Taylor – Chair, Estate Agent

Community Governors:

Mr Philip Reilly – Works for HMRC

Mr Asif Khan – College Lecturer

In addition to the governors listed, our meetings are minuted by our clerks, Michael Tuck and Gemma Ryan.

Our governors are all volunteers and give up their skills, experience and time for free in order to help and support our school.