



PARKGATE INFANTS GOVERNOR GOSSIP

SUMMER 2016

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.

Governor Spotlight: Beth Dyson, Parent Governor



I've been a Parent Governor since June 2014. I became a governor because I wanted to help support the school my children were at, and work to enable the school to grow and improve. I am currently Chair of the Curriculum Committee, which is responsible for matters relating to the curriculum and its delivery within the school, including Inclusion. I work as a researcher in museums, and have worked on projects at the V&A, British Museum, and Science Museum among others.

Things we have been discussing recently:

* Communication between the school and parents, particularly over special events. All events are advertised in the weekly newsletter, and on the school website, but we also propose to use boards in the playground to help make arrangements for special events clearer.

* Information on the school website which includes information about school term dates and special events. The website text can be translated, via google translate, into over 100 languages.

* Improvements to the school environment, such as the successful installation of the new boiler, and new interactive whiteboards in all classrooms.

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. Four 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 – Chair, Facilities Manager and parent of Betsy in Reception.

Mrs Beth Dyson – Museum/Education Researcher and parent of Alice in Year 2, and Jacob in Reception.

Mrs Jenny Pattinson – Inspection Manager and parent of Jake in Reception.

Staff Governors:

Miss Ann Lawrence – Headteacher.

Mr Gwyn Pritchard – Deputy Headteacher.

LEA Governors:

Mr Malcolm Curry – Fabrication Engineer.

Co-Opted Governors:

Mr Philip Reilly – Works for HMRC.

Mr Asif Khan – College Lecturer and parent of Zaynab in Year 1.

Mrs Tracey Hudson – Teacher.

Mrs Yvonne Mynett – Solicitor.

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.

In September 2016 we will have a vacancy for a new governor. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in applying, please feel free to speak to existing governors for further information.