



Billingshurst Primary School

Governor Newsletter

Learning, growing and achieving excellence together

December 2018

Hello and welcome to the new-look Governor newsletter which we are hoping will interest you with lots of information about all the things we have been doing as a Governing Body each term.

Firstly we'd liked to introduce our new governors to you, Stuart Wager, Yvette Rowe and Oliver Eames. Stuart joined in July and Yvette joined us in September. Oliver is our newly-elected Parent Governor and we welcomed him formally at the Full Governing Body meeting at the end of November.

"As a brand new governor I'm just beginning to learn lots of information about BPS and I've been delighted to tour the school and meet some of the pupils. I've also met the leadership team and some of the teachers on Inset day in October and I enjoyed my first FBG meeting in November." Yvette Rowe, Co-Opted Governor.

"Although I haven't been in this position for very long, I'm finding the parent governor role to be a fascinating and enjoyable experience so far. There are so many different and diverse elements of primary education to understand but I'm up for the challenge and making a positive contribution." Stuart Wagner, Parent Governor

"I am delighted to have been elected as parent governor. I am looking forward to being able to offer my time and skills to the school, helping it thrive and develop." Oliver Eames, Parent Governor

In each issue of our newsletter we want to tell you more about one of the three main committees that the Governors form to ensure we cover all aspects of school life. This newsletter we are focusing on the *Curriculum & Pupil Support* committee. So, what happens in a meeting?

- We look at how the curriculum is taught throughout the school and chart how this is linked to the School Improvement Plan.
- We receive a verbal update on the quality of teaching and learning, the progress made to constantly develop teaching and learning and what strategies have been put in place to support this.
- We read policies that need reviewing each term and make updates as necessary.
- We receive a behaviour report that allows us to see how different pupil behaviours are monitored and any patterns that they follow.
- We get to hear from the pupils about specific areas of their learning. We have arranged a visit for our next meeting and are keen to talk with them to see how effective they think the marking is and how this improves their progress. Meeting and hearing from pupils about their experience is very important to governors and we are always so impressed by their confidence and politeness.

Dave Hairs, one of our co-opted governors joined teachers for their inset day in October which was run by the National Literacy Trust: *"The day was fantastic, it gave me a fascinating insight into teachers' ongoing professional development. An incredibly knowledgeable coach revealed new techniques and ideas for developing language and vocabulary. The teachers clearly enjoyed being students for the day, taking on new ideas that they will be sharing with our children."*

Funding remains a big issue for our school and we urge parents and carers to follow, like and share the WorthLess? Campaign. Visit the WorthLess? West Sussex Schools Campaign for Fairer Funding pages on Facebook & Twitter.

Christmas is always a busy but exciting time in school and we hope you have enjoyed all the seasonal events. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff for their dedication and hard-work.

**We wish you all a
Merry Christmas
and very happy
New Year!**

Autumn Term Governor visit to observe maths mastery in action!

Each term governors take part in a group governor visit and this term, at the beginning of September, we spent half a day with pupils to learn first-hand the approach to teaching and learning mastery in mathematics. We learnt that the National Curriculum expectation is that children should be competent in times tables, up to x12, by the end of Year 4 and we saw the whole school embark on their daily 15 minutes sessions to focus on these skills. Each class we visited set their own individual targets and each child had a focus area to practise and perfect. Masterful!

Each newsletter we will be having a Q&A with one of the governors so you get to find out more about them. This term, our children put their questions to the Chairperson, Bik-Kay Talbot!

What inspired you to become a governor?

“Having been part of the PTA for several years at the infant school, I wanted to do something new and learn about the school from a different perspective.”

What skills do you have that makes you a great governor?

“I’m very organised and always want to learn!”

What experiences do you have working with children?

“I’m a parent! I’ve always liked working with children and was a very popular babysitter. I always wanted to be a pre-school teacher up until the age of 12 after that I wanted to work in Marketing for Warner Bros on Wardour Street, London. I was chair of FOTSA (Friends Of The School Association) at the Infant School and then formed BPSCA when the school merged and was Chair for seven years.”

How does education differ from when you were at school?

“I think children have to work a lot harder than we used to.”

Who were your inspirations as a child?

“SE Hinton and Francine Pascal both made me want to be an author.”

Did you have a favourite teacher at school? Why?

“My art teacher at secondary school, Mr Horney. He was always cheerful and a really good listener. We kept in touch until he passed away.”

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

“San Francisco – one of my favourite childhood family holidays was there and I love the quirkiness of the city.”

What is the most important quality to look for in a friend?

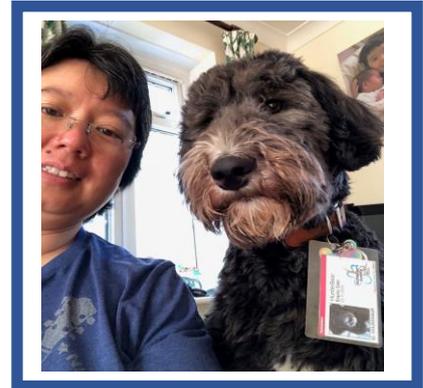
“Being easy going because I am such a control freak!”

What would you like Father Christmas to bring you this year?

“A Live Aid style concert with all my favourite bands! I struggled to pick just one band.”

If you could give one gift to every child in the world, what would it be and why?

“To be happy!”



We’d love to know what you think of our new look newsletter, if you have any thoughts please let us know by contacting: govs@billingshurstprimary.org.uk.

And don’t forget you can follow us on Facebook too: [Billingshurst Primary School Governors](#).