



Billingshurst Primary School Governors Newsletter Edition 20 – Summer 2018

Chair's Welcome

Here we are at the end of another academic year; each term seems to fly by so quickly and it is a privilege to see the children learn, develop and grow as they move into their new year. We wish our Year 6 well as they take the next step and move on to secondary education. I know everyone is looking forward to their well earned summer break after a busy year with Science week, Maths week and Enterprise week to name just a few; we have been very privileged to hear the children talk about their ideas at our meetings and to see their passion for learning. It is always great to see the achievements of the children, especially when their imagination soars and the buzz of excitement is almost tenable as the children discuss their ideas with such eagerness and enthusiasm.

Congratulations to Miss Andrews on her appointment as Assistant Headteacher EYFS/KS1 and with the recent appointment of Miss Wattam as deputy head we are confident that we go into September with a strong leadership team. We also say farewell to many familiar faces - whether it is to a new job or retirement, we wish them well.

Our thanks go to Miss Williamson and the staff for all their hard work and dedication to your children.

We look forward to seeing you in September and, for those who are leaving us, we wish you the very best as you take the next step in your journey.

Bik-Kay Talbot, Chair of Governors

Governor visit: Year 6 Book Talk

Members of the governing body took part in a group visit to the school in June to find out more about 'book talk'. We wanted to see it in action: how it works and the impact it has on pupils in developing them as writers. We visited Japan class and tried to make ourselves as discreet as possible in the classroom to see Mrs Wilson lead a book talk lesson.

Book talk is undertaken in KS2 but with elements of it included in some KS1 literacy lessons. The main principle of book talk is that the whole class work on the same text and answer three questions about a particular passage: what they can retrieve about the text, what they can infer about what they have read followed by an evaluative question.

We sat and listened to the pupils as they worked as a class and in small groups. We were thoroughly impressed by how they all seemed completely engaged with the topic; their enjoyment of the challenging nature of the lesson was evident in their discussions with us about the characters and text. We are looking forward to witnessing more book talk lessons with other year groups and seeing what impact this learning has on the children as creative and imaginative writers. One or two governors were also pleased with what they had learnt about metaphors too. And don't get us started on synonyms! Thanks Mrs Wilson!

Departing Governors

Several governors are leaving the governing body at the end of this school year and we would like to take this opportunity to say good-bye and thank you!

Departing governors shared with us their experience of being a governor at BPS:

Carol Hagland: *'The governing body and the school are both excellent and my fellow governors were very welcoming; it has been an interesting experience.'*

Rachel Chambers: *'I have really enjoyed the 8 years that I have been a member of the BPS governing body. I have acquired new skills, made new friends and, in my role as 'critical friend', have developed a greater understanding and appreciation of the school.'*

If you would like to contact the Governors, you can do so via the school office, or you can find us on the BPS website:

<http://www.billingshurstprimary.org.uk>

Contact details can be found at: <http://www.billingshurstprimary.org.uk/About Us/Governors>

Ben Martin: *'It's been a real privilege to have been a BPS governor for the past 5 years. It has given me both a great appreciation of the school - it's staff, it's aspirations and potential - and also a great opportunity to be involved in the improving education of our kids. The greater understanding along with that unique opportunity to bring positive change, has made being a governor a role I would recommend to anyone.'*

With departures come new opportunities and we are happy to welcome Stuart Wager to the governing body, as a parent governor.

We have three vacancies on the governing body and thus we are looking for people to join us from September 2018. If this is something that you would be interested in doing then please get in touch.

govs@billingshurstprimary.org.uk

Governing Body Membership

Staff:	Helen Williamson Lucy Andrews
LA:	David Lowe
Parent:	Abi Smith Christopher Evans John Fraher Dave Hairs
Co-opted:	Rachel Chambers Ben Martin Alison Sutton Bik-kay Talbot Jo Newton-Smith
Associate Member:	Jacquie Wattam