



## *Billingshurst Primary School Governors Newsletter Edition 18 – Autumn 2017*

### **Chair's Welcome**

What a busy term we've had! The second half of the term is always lovely as the children have settled in, and the rehearsals and the spirit of Christmas fill the school. I hope you have enjoyed all of the plays as much as we have. It is always a privilege to come and see the Christmas performances from the different year groups and one of the perks of being a Governor is that we are invited to them all! The amount of preparation and rehearsing for each show is clear but best of all is seeing how much each child really enjoys playing their part in their year groups' performance. A huge well done to all the pupils - from the shepherds in the Reception nativity to the Santas in Year 6, we are very proud of you all.

We take the opportunity of this first newsletter of the academic year to welcome new parents and members of staff to the school, but sadly we also have to say goodbye to several members of staff. We thank Julie Bennett, clerk to the governors, for being the encyclopedia of all things governance for the last 13 years; and we welcome Sarah Johncock to the school who will be taking over her role. We also wish Amy Greenman Sparrow the very best as she moves to Bristol. Our final goodbye is to Miss Nicholls. I know many of you will miss seeing her at the school gates in the mornings, I know she is very excited about her new challenges in 2018 as Head of Rudgwick Primary. I would like to thank Miss Nicholls for her valuable contributions to education in the village: from her time at the Infant school through to the Primary School. We will miss you very much. Mrs Wattam steps up as the interim Deputy Head whilst we recruit for a permanent Deputy Head.

A reminder that although the Worthless campaign seems quiet at the moment, we persevere in fighting for fairer funding for our school. Please continue to support our campaign.

A governing body looks at the processes and procedures of the school, if you have any feedback that you would like to pass on you can contact us at [governors@billingshurstprimary.org.uk](mailto:governors@billingshurstprimary.org.uk) or I'm usually at the school gate most mornings. If you have concerns about your child, please always speak to

your class teacher in the first instance, we will always refer you back to the start of the process should you contact us first.

On behalf of the Governing body we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing and hearing you at Carols in the Car Park!

**Bik-Kay Talbot**, Chair of Governors

### **News**

#### **A welcome for all**

Governors went back to school for the afternoon to participate in a training workshop that teachers took part in at the beginning of term. The topic was 'Moving towards Excellence And Becoming A Truly Inclusive School' and we were all very excited about how BPS is focused on getting the best out of every single child. We came away feeling very enthused by the level in which the teachers are aiming to light the spark of curiosity in every single pupil.

#### **Committee updates**

We govern the school through three committees covering standards, finance & resources and curriculum and pupil support. Here's a brief update from each committee.

#### **Standards Committee**

In summer 2017, BPS achieved improved results, from those of 2016, across Maths, Reading and Writing. The school continues to strive to improve results in Maths further. The impact of the Mastery programme in Year 1 is impressive; this approach was also used in Year 5 last year and thus Year 6 will benefit from this experience as they sit their 2018 tests. James Collinson, Maths lead at BPS, has been awarded the Primary Mastery Specialist award for Mathematics, and is overseeing the Mastery approach to Maths now being rolled out across the school.

The way in which the school data is now recorded and analysed has changed since last year; the governors will be undertaking training in the new

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>

year to help ensure we understand the new system.

#### **Pupil and Curriculum Support Committee**

We were excited to hear that the school has embarked in three major projects this year. We are now in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, we are continuing to work with the NCETM Mastery Programme and finally we are involved in leading an Inclusion project in the local authority.

The NLT is working with our teachers with the focus on 'Teachers As Writers' initiative - to ensure consistent and high expectations in the quality of teaching writing. This will have a knock-on effect to pupils and help inspire our young authors to light up the world with their literature. Can we get the first read?

The aim of the Inclusion project is to raise achievement of all pupils but particularly to have an impact on vulnerable under-achieving children.

#### **Finance Committee**

Following on from the successful new roofs earlier this year, our big premises project this year was the replacement of the doors and windows in the original SCOLA block (Years 4 and 6). These classrooms have long suffered with high temperatures and sunlight in the summer months due to their exposed south facing position. The new doors and windows have glass which filters the UV out, so we not only have better light but better temperature control too. Several exterior doors around the school have also been replaced as part of the project, so the building is in good shape heading into the winter months. The project went well thanks to the constant attention of the Headteacher and the Business Manager, with mild nagging from the governors. The project also allowed us to remove a significant amount of asbestos from the school, bringing our register down to a relatively small list.

Careful planning and management of the budget has seen us come through the year and end in a positive position and whilst this is a cause for celebration and a heartfelt thank you to our Business Manager, Susie Clitheroe, the school budget is still in a difficult position and the next couple of years will remain so while we fully realise the impact of the National Funding

Formula. Please do continue to support the WorthLess campaign.

The school is nearing capacity now with just seven vacant spaces across the entire school; this bodes well for our future funding based on per pupil funding, however it does raise a question regarding the provision of primary education in the village with the significant building works that are currently underway and a situation that the school and governors will continue to monitor.

***We have been asking you, parents and carers, what you would like reported in our newsletter so I hope that you find these articles informative. If you have further suggestions of what you would like included please let us know via email:***

[govs@billingshurstprimary.org.uk](mailto:govs@billingshurstprimary.org.uk)

#### **Governing Body Membership**

Staff:	Miss Helen Williamson Lucy Andrews
LA:	Mr David Lowe
Parent:	Mrs Abi Smith Mr Christopher Evans Mr John Fraher Mr Dave Hairs
Co-opted:	Mrs Rachel Chambers Mr Ben Martin Ms Alison Sutton Mrs Bik-kay Talbot Mrs Jo Newton-Smith Carol Hagland Zane Sturt
Associate Member:	Miss Serena Nicholls