



Spixworth Infant School



Learning together, Achieving together
Our aim is to enable every child to Shine

Governors Newsletter February 2017

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the second governors newsletter of this academic year, and my first as chair of governors.

After serving on the governing body for 8 years, Jeff Burton took the difficult decision to step down as chair and resign from the board of governors. We thank Jeff for all his commitment and support to the school during his time and wish him well for his future endeavours. It was a great honour to be elected chair by my fellow governors and it is my aim to ensure that we continue to work along side the school leaders and be an active part in the life of the school.

We are delighted to welcome Alison Corfield to the governing body. Alison will take on the responsibility of safeguarding/child protection and leadership & management.

The children's enthusiasm in the topics studied so far this year has been incredible and I am sure is set to continue with this half terms topic of Spixworth and Dinosaurs after Easter, including the fantastic opportunity for the children to visit the Natural History Museum, London. The governors and the staff wish to support all our families to ensure this trip is as successful as the Duxford trip last academic year. Therefore, if you have any queries or concerns following the meeting at the end of last term, please discuss these with your class teacher or Ms Jordan.

Growth mindset will continue to be a focus within the school and the working party, made up of staff, governors and parents, came up with some interesting concepts to involve both children and their parents in this evolving subject. It is not too late to be involved in the working party. Please keep an eye on the school website for the date of the next meeting and be sure to visit the growth mindset section of the school website, under learning, to see what the children have been doing within their learning circles.

Angela Eastick, Chair of governors

Who are we?

From the surveys completed at the parents consultation evenings, not all parents knew who the school governors were or what we do.

On the following page is our first interview with a governor so that you can get to know us and our specific role within the governing body.

Communication remains a focus for the Governors and the school and we are continuously looking at ways to improve this.

Contact Us

Further information about the governors and the school is available on the school website at;

www.spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk

Please contact any of us if you have any specific questions or would like any more information about the governing body and its role.

Contact information is also available in the schools Handbook for Parents or alternatively email Angela Eastick at the email address on the following page.

Governor vacancies

We currently have 3 vacancies on the Governing Body. We are looking for people to join us who have specific skills in either legal or premises, health & safety, although training in these areas is available to anyone who would like to join the governing body. The following page has a brief overview of what the role of the governing body is. If you are interested in joining, or know anyone who may have the skills we are looking for please either contact Ms Jordan or Angela Eastick, chair of governors.

What we do

Governors are volunteers drawn from parents, staff and members of the local community. We contribute to the leadership of the school and are involved in setting strategic direction & the formulation of policies. Helping the head teacher and staff to evaluate progress, and setting the school's aims & values are also part of our role. Our responsibilities include approving the annual budget and appointing the head teacher.

We do not become involved in the day to day management of the school – this is the head teacher's responsibility. But we hold the head teacher to account for the performance of the school.

Our role is sometimes described as a 'critical friend'. This means we provide independent challenge by asking questions to ensure continuous improvement and ensure the School is being taken in the right direction. We do not 'criticise' the head teacher or staff.

Being a governor requires time and commitment but is very rewarding.

How we do it

We meet as a full governing body once every half-term. We discuss the school development plan, policies, budgets, admissions, monitoring visits, risk management, and reports from the head teacher, which includes details of the latest school performance data.

We carry out monitoring visits within school to help us appreciate and understand the workings of the school, as well as ensure the school is developing in the right direction. We do not make judgements about the quality of teaching or the progress of individual children.

Who we are



Angela Eastick, Chair of Governors

I joined the governing body in February 2016 after seeing vacancies advertised in the school newsletter. As well as chair of governors, my role within the governing body is finance. I am involved with the annual budget setting and regular monitoring to ensure spend is in line with the school improvement development plan and the budgets set. I have a daughter in year 1 so can be found most mornings and afternoons outside Maple Class. I have a younger child, currently attending Stepping Stones Day Nursery, who will start school in September 2019.

Name	Role	Name	Role
Angela Eastick	Co-opted Governor Chair of Governors	Scott Wilkinson	Parent Governor
		Alison Corfield	Co-opted Governor
Kate Reeve	Parent Governor Vice Chair		
Heidi Jordan	Head teacher	More information regarding the governing body can be found on the school website - http://www.spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk/governance/governing-body/	
Juliette Kidd	Staff Governor	Angela Eastick, Chair of Governors - chairofgov@spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk	
Emma Cresswell	Co-opted Governor		

