

Governors Newsletter December 2018



Chairs page

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you to all those who completed the parent questionnaires handed out at the recent teacher/parent meetings. The answers of which will be collated over the Christmas break and an overview made available when the school reopens in the new year.

We would like to grow our parent forum group, as those who attend find it useful and informative. We therefore added some additional questions to this year's questionnaire to see what changes, if any, are needed so that more parents/carers can attend.

The Governing body are involved in decision making in many aspects of the school and parental feedback is an important factor in the decisions we make. We therefore want to ensure everyone has an opportunity to be involved.

This half term, I had the privilege of guest judging at the 'Strictly Come Spixworth Dancing (just for fun)' final

and whilst it was an honour to be made a Dame (Darcey Bussell) for the afternoon, full credit should go to the children for their hard work, determination and enthusiasm, not just in the final but throughout the heats which took place during their usual PE lessons in the weeks leading up to the final.

May I also say thank you to Mrs Russell who worked with all the children, teaching them the 5 skill elements they were asked to incorporate in to their routines as well as the importance of timing and presentation.

Congratulations to the Green Finches for scooping the glitterball trophy!

With the first term of this year nearly over, I am certain the children and the staff are ready for a well earned break and so I wish you all a happy holiday and look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year.

Angela Eastick
Chair of Governors

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Angela Eastick

- Chair of Governors
- Finance
- Effectiveness of Leadership & management
- Staff & whole school development & training

Matt Ward

- Vice Chair
- Outcomes
- Core subject link governor
- Quality of teaching, learning & assessment

Heidi Jordan

- Head teacher

Lily Engall

- SEND/Child protection
- Personal development, behaviour & welfare

Neil Campbell

- Safeguarding & attendance
- GDPR
- EYFS

Kerry Goodhew

- PE & sports
- Foundation subject link governor

Julia Whiting

- Premises development
- Partnerships, governors, parents & the community

Governor appointments, resignations and vacancies

We are very pleased to have Julia Whiting join us on the governing body as the new parent governor. Julia works in various aspects of governance in her career and is excited to join us and develop skills as a school governor. Julia will be responsible for monitoring premises development and partnerships between governors, parents and the wider community.

You can find out more about Julia from her profile on the school website.

We have 3 vacancies on the Governing Body for co-opted governors.

Co-opted governors are appointed by the

governing body and are people who, we feel, share our interest in the performance and direction of the school

There are no specific qualifications required to be a governor, just the motivation, desire and willingness to contribute towards the continuing improvement of the school and make a difference. Full training is provided.

You do not need to be a parent to be a school governor therefore, if you or someone you know might be interested in joining the governing body, please contact me or the school office

Governor Monitoring Day 2018

The governor monitoring day took place on 20 November. Some of the Governors were in school all day, seeing the school at work, and gaining first hand information to effectively monitor the progress and performance of the school as well as evaluate our own impact on the school.

Learning walks were completed in all classrooms and children spoke to us confidently and politely about what they were learning.

Play time and lunch time were observed and some of the governors even joined the children in the dinner hall, sampling one of the hot meals supplied by Vertas

We also spoke to staff about a range of matters, including wellbeing, training and communication.

It was a busy day in school, with flu vaccinations taking place however the children's behaviour and conduct throughout was exemplary and a pleasure to witness.

The governors are extremely proud of how the children, especially our new reception children, have embraced the schools core values and their own learning policy around growth mindset. This was evident throughout the day from watching the children work together, supporting and encouraging their peers and listening to their conversations.

We were able to see first hand the investment the school has made in the premises, training and resources, having a positive impact on the children's learning experiences.

Our new cookery room was in use throughout the day, being accessed by all year groups, with smaller intervention groups in the morning, and group cookery in the afternoon.

We were also able to observe some of the Maths and English intervention sessions, for which the use of number masters and talk boost were introduced this year and in which staff have received full training.

All feedback from the governor monitoring day was collated and presented at the full governing body meeting on 29 November. Minutes of which are available, on request, from the school office.

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

The Whole Child

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH...

1 in 10
5-16 year olds have a mental disorder

PARENT WORKSHOP
MONDAY 14TH JANUARY
2.30PM

Only 1 in 3
receives treatment from mental health services

PLEASE JOIN US AND START THE CONVERSATION

Spixworth School

One area of our school that, as Chair, I am immensely proud of is how we go beyond the teaching of what is laid out in the national curriculum and ensure there is a focus in all we do to the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of our children. Through growth mindset and child whispering, daily exercise, growing our own foods, cookery and healthy snacks, we are helping our children to understand their own emotions, thoughts and feelings and giving them a way of expressing these when some may not yet have the vocabulary to know how. Including everyone in some form of daily exercise, all of which, as adults, we know can support your physical and mental health.

I was therefore delighted to hear and fully supportive of the parents workshop being held on Monday 14 January at 2.30pm with a focus on the need to talk about children's mental health. Please come along to find out more.