

Neroche Community Primary School - Governors' Newsletter

Newsletter: Autumn 2018

Chair: David Pugh

Vice-Chair: Tracey Ward



Hellos and Goodbyes!

All schools experience change over time, but this term has been particularly busy with staff coming and going. We have said 'goodbye' to teachers Clare Deem and Kate Rigden, both of whom have been at Neroche for some time. Clare is looking forward to spending quality time with her young family and Kate has moved onto new experiences in another Somerset school - we wish them both happiness and success in the future. We have also said 'goodbye' to Sam Poole one of our teaching assistants and to Katie Cooper who has worked in the school office, and again we wish them both well for the future. And now for the hellos : to Kim Beer who is covering Kate Oliver's maternity leave in Year 5 ; to Marie Withers who is teaching in Year 3 for the remainder of this academic year, replacing Clare Deem ; to Fay Bampton-Wilton who will teach in Reception Class from January; to Jane Hunt who is covering for Claire Bowditch's maternity leave in the pre-school, and to Jess Millard who will be teaching in Year 6, replacing Kate Rigden. We also have welcomed Tanya Robinson who has been supply teaching in Reception due to James Smith's absence, and Karina McKenzie who has worked with Year 6 for this half-term.

With so many comings and goings, the Governing Body has been impressed with the way our senior leaders have been able to manage change by recruiting quality staff, sometimes at short notice, and by the way our children have risen to the challenges presented. Well done everyone!

Governing Body our core functions

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school.
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Following our External Review of Governance in April, the Governing Body is operating in a slightly different way this year, whilst still maintaining our core functions above. We now operate a 'no' committee structure, with designated duties for Lead Governors. We meet as a full Governing Body every month, except August, and regularly review policies, and receive reports.

As a Governing Body we are still pursuing a move towards a more strategic association with ELAN (Extended Learning Academies Network). This is moving forward quickly following initial talks, and as a Governing Body we hope to report the outcome during the year.

As you will be aware there have recently been nominations sought for two Parent Governor vacancies, as terms of office come to an end. Tom Vaughan and Gary Smith have been your representatives for the past four years and have brought expertise to the Governing Body in finance and health & safety/premises. The Governing Body would like to thank them for their input. They have been very active behind the scenes in keeping our school in great condition, both financial and in appearance! Alison Collins has also come to the end of her four year term of office as Staff Governor, and again her contribution to our work has been invaluable.

School Council and Pupil Achievements

Welcome to our new School Council :

Year 1: Sunny and George

Year 2: Roxy and Wilf

Year 3: Erynn and Lewis

Year 4: Mary-Tess and Aaron

Year 5: Molly and Olly

Year 6: Nancy and Jacob

This term the School Council helped raise over a fantastic £500 for Children In Need, and were interviewed on Radio Somerset for their efforts, supported by Pudsey Bear and Peppa Pig!!

School Council members also represented the school at the opening of The Minster Christmas Tree Festival in Ilminster, where the two trees from Neroche supporting CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and Save the Children raised £90. Over £300 was also raised from the design and purchase of children's Christmas cards, and the School Council has earmarked this for Year 6's end of year celebrations.

Next term the School Council is looking to raise money to buy new attractive bins for the playground.

Future Events

- ◆ Last day of term :
Friday 21st
December 2018
- ◆ First day of term :
Monday 7th
January 2019

Congratulations.....

- to our PFA who organized a very successful Christmas Fayre in Horton Village Hall, and a big THANK-YOU to all children, parents, staff, governors and members of the local community who supported the event.
- to our wonderful School Council and all the work it does - thanks also to Mrs. Collins who has ably supported them for several years. Miss Millard will be taking over this role in 2019.
- to all our new children and families this term, who have settled in so well, and are positively contributing to school life.



Children in Need fun !



Support for Ilminster's Christmas Tree Festival.



Remembering.



New Year 1 outside area.

As mentioned previously, the Governing Body is developing a 'no committee' structure, which means we all meet regularly once a month, with a rolling programme of reports and policy reviews. We thought this newsletter would be a good vehicle to introduce ourselves and say something about our roles.

Lead Governor for Personnel - Tracey Ward

Hello ! My role is to ensure that our school has quality staff, and that safer recruitment procedures are in place for every appointment. I review the staffing structure annually or whenever a vacancy occurs, and I also ensure yearly salary statements are issued to all members of the teaching staff following the appraisal cycle. I also try to ensure a work/life balance mantra is pursued for all staff and I keep working conditions and the wellbeing of staff under review at all times.

Lead Governor for Curriculum - David Pugh

In my curriculum role I receive, and have knowledge of how the curriculum is taught, evaluated and resourced. I also advise governors on their statutory obligations regarding the National Curriculum. I monitor and review relevant curriculum policies and the implementation of any changes planned. This year I am currently monitoring the School Development Plan target on developing mathematics in school.

Lead Governor for Safeguarding - Dave Tucker

Keeping our children safe is a major priority of the Governing Body. I ensure along with the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads that training is up-to-date, and best practice is embedded in day to day activities in school. I ensure that the school promotes on-line safety awareness for all stakeholders, and I also act on child protection issues.

Lead Governor for Finance - Gary Smith

Money is always on our Governing Body agendas, as many initiatives cannot be introduced and developed without appropriate resources to support them. My role is to scrutinize and agree the formal budget plan for any financial year and make recommendations to the Governing Body. I also ensure that the school operates within the financial regulations of the County Council and complies with the financial standards for schools (SFVS).

Lead Governor for Stakeholders - Tim Gibson

By stakeholders the Governing Body means all those who have an interest in our school and its continued success, so our children, their parents and families, our staff and governors and the wider community which the school serves. I am hoping this year to meet with as many groups as possible, or at least to get responses to questionnaires so that together we can ensure the continued success of our school.

Lead Governor for SEND - Katie Cooper

I liaise regularly with Claire Eastwood, the school SENDCo to make sure that any children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are recognized and supported. I am passionate that the school's approach to SEND is open to all, and is followed effectively. I have up-to-date knowledge of the school's SEND provision, including funding and deployment of resources and staff. I also support provision for more able children.

Lead Governor for Pupil Premium and Sports Premium - Linda Vijeh

Pupil Premium and Sports Premium are additional pots of money given to schools to support our children. I monitor how this funding is used and how staff are deployed, and that the impact of this funding is evaluated and reported. I am keen to evaluate how this funding contributes to the well-being, leadership and academic achievement of our children at Neroche.

Lead Governor for Health & Safety and Premises - Tom Vaughan

Nobody wants to work in a building that is cold, unattractive and shabby, and so my role is to make sure that the fabric of the building is well maintained, inside and out. I agree costs and arrangements for maintenance, repairs and redecoration within any budget allocation. I support overseeing the preparation and implementation of contracts ensuring best value principles are adhered to. I have also had the less attractive job this term of trying to sort a recurring problem with our drains!

There are also separate lead governors for : training and development, Early Years Foundation Stage and data.

Monthly governor meetings, and the above snapshots are of course only half the story, it is what happens between meetings which is equally important. As lead governors we will be constantly talking to our Headteacher, senior leaders, and staff who have specific responsibilities, in order to get the most up-to-date information so that we can report back accurately at our meetings. We hope this will make us more efficient and effective, and above all more strategic in the way we work. We have delegated the operational day-to-day organization of the school to our Headteacher and his senior staff, but even these are affected by how we as a Governing Body look to the future, in order to maintain Neroche Primary School as a great place to learn and work - with your help we know we can !

And finally, the Governing Body would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas with your family and friends. We look forward to a bright and exciting 2019 for our school community. Thank-you for all the positive comments we receive - we really appreciate them!

