



GOVERNORS' NEWS.

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! We hope you have all enjoyed a great Christmas break and would like to wish you all a very prosperous and successful New Year. We thought that we would write to you all to let you know what we have been up to and what we have planned for this year.



Firstly, we would like to introduce you to our new parent governor, Mrs Kate Clarke. Kate joined the Board of Governors at the start of the autumn term and is mum to Tom in Yr 5 and Abby in reception. We are very pleased to welcome her to our team. Kate is an experienced nursery teacher and is currently based at Happy Tots Pre School in Read. She has been appointed as our EYFS governor and we are confident that her experience and enthusiasm will be a great asset to school.

Currently we have a vacancy for a Foundation governor. If you would like to take on this role, with particular emphasis on promoting the Church ethos at St. Peter's School and you are able to devote some of your spare time, please contact Christine Smith or John Aizlewood for more details.

The team of governors, who are all volunteers, are referred to as the 'Governing Board'. To avoid confusion, we do not manage the day-to-day running of the school. This responsibility is carried out by the Head Teacher (Christine Smith) and Deputy Head Teacher (Jill Cockings). As governors, we are required to oversee the long term development of St. Peter's school through support and challenge, making executive decisions and strategic management of the school. We achieve this through the Governing Board members that have a wide range of different skills, enabling a good vision of where we can develop the school. Nearly all governors volunteer with additional roles at school and offer practical help: accompanying trips; reading with the catch up readers; maths boosters and running after school clubs (including the cookery club). This is not exclusive to governors and school are always on the look out for parents or grandparents who could assist with reading and running new clubs as well?

In the past year this has involved continuing our plan of improvements to the buildings. The old hall building was completely re-wired and new energy efficient lighting installed. It is an old building and we still have more projects planned for this facility. This year we will also be working to make more use of the conservation area.

However, it is not just about the buildings. The majority of governors' time has been spent in monitoring and evaluating the separate subjects to keep up with the major reforms in education. This means that we can support the staff with this in a rapidly changing world.

Safeguarding your children is a key priority. The team have attending training and overseen the updating of the school safeguarding policy to keep this in line with recent developments. This focus will involve you all as parents within the coming months as we all need to work together to become aware of the challenges facing us in the on-line world and expanding use of digital media.

John Aizlewood (Chair of Governors') & Liz Evans (Vice Chair). Jan. 2017.