



## From the chair...

Invited by Alex Bell to take part in the new parents and children induction morning, I was struck while at the event, by what a lovely school they will be joining. The atmosphere was so warm and welcoming and I was proud to be there representing the governors.

2015/16 has been one of change and 'new' beginnings for Colston's Primary School, but now approaching the end of the academic year, I feel we can graduate from 'new' to 'established'.

Steve Higgins, Assistant Head based at Elmgrove, reported positively on 'Elmgrove a year in'. Alex Bell, now 'established' rather than 'new' headteacher regularly reports to and consults with us. Governors are enjoying working with him, and we had a productive end of year strategic review together. But how about the children? I met with the school council who reported the following:

[Mr Bell is] "... good at keeping everyone safe and ... trying their best" Feroz, Year 2, [he is] "easy to talk to ... and kind" Archie, Year 4, [and he is] "open to new ideas ... and ... approachable" Jaya, Year 4.

Our last newsletter was a reintroduitory Who's Who. We promised more news in this one. Two sides of A4 is restrictive, but we have outlined the headlines. I hope it is of interest. More will follow in November/December.

In the meantime, here's wishing you all very best wishes for a fantastic summer!



Illustration by Colston's parent and illustrator: Karen George



*Bronwen Wright*  
Chair of Governors

## Committee News

### Resources Committee

The Resource Committee was newly formed for this academic year, bringing together Finance & Staffing and Premises Committees into one. Our role is to review Colston's support services which include Finance, HR and Premises.

We examine the budgets and financial statements, and monitor and assess financial controls, risks and procedures. We evaluate HR and staffing policies and form part of the staffing pay committee.

Katy Dunscombe is our link governor for health and safety, reporting on all H&S matters. The committee also evaluates any premises developments or changes.



Bronwen Wright, Committee Chair and FCCA qualified accountant.

### Outcomes Committee

The Outcomes Committee looks at children's outcomes, educational and social. We hold the school to account by asking questions about the data staff produce on children's progress, and reports relating to behaviour and wellbeing.

We look for consistency in value added to the children's knowledge and skills, as well as strategies for nurturing good behaviour and wellbeing in all pupils, the bedrock of their potential to succeed.

The big challenge for staff this year has been managing the change in assessment from levels to a new banding system. Our professional, competent staff, have risen to this responsibly, mindful of the impact on children.

Nick Woodroffe, Committee Chair.



# Other News

## Communications Update



Hello, my name is Peter Kay and I became a parent governor just over a year ago. During that time I have taken on the role of Communications Governor as it has been identified by parents as an area that should be improved.

In this role I am working closely with the school on a number of initiatives that will address this key issue. Currently our focus is the school website and I can tell you that it is being redesigned so it provides parents with better information about key dates and class activities in a format that is easier to use.

This aim of the redesign is to help us all better understand what is happening at school, and when it is happening so we can support our children learning and manage our diaries with improved notice.

The new site is due to go live in September but in the meantime if you have any thoughts or observations about communications in general then either just come and find me in the playground or email.

## Governor Personnel Notices



Eileen Lepine is stepping down after three years of invaluable service.

Eileen has been Vice Chair of Governors and Co Chair of our Outcomes Committee. She rewrote our complaints policy, was a key player in the head's recruitment and most recently has been SEN Link Governor.

Eileen said, "I've especially enjoyed times when being a governor has meant seeing the children and one of my favourite memories will be the morning we all left a meeting to join the children in the playground for the solar eclipse. I may not miss meetings too much – but I will miss working with other governors and staff. Everyone is dedicated to delivering the best for all Colston's Primary children and it's been a privilege to make a contribution"

Much thanks and very best wishes to Eileen whose knowledge, eloquence and steer will be much missed.



## We have a student on our governing body!



Introducing Emily Warren-Ballard ...

I am a final year History student at the University of Bristol and living locally to the school. I first became involved through an information evening about the cooperative scheme, and this eventually led to my place on the governing body! I was immediately attracted by the school's ethos and I feel both privileged and excited to be given such an opportunity.

I hope to contribute my enthusiasm for education along with some of my knowledge and experiences as a student. Currently I am undertaking the literacy link governor role and I have been working with Alex Jarman this year. I am excited to be working with new Literacy Lead's Emmeline Smith and Alan Thompson from September. I am looking forward to bringing a young person's perspective to an already greatly experienced and hardworking team!



Goodbye also to Rob Davies, our first ever school business manager, and a nonvoting attendee at governor meetings. He has been a major player in leading the school through Academy conversion and the expansion project.

Rob said, "Being a school governor is a great way of putting something back and offering expertise or opinion on the school's aims and objectives. It has been rewarding supporting our governors and the whole school community. I shall miss my colleagues and the children, who have made my time here a lot of fun"

We will certainly miss his steady presence, experience and guidance enormously. Huge thanks and very best wishes to Rob.

Kate Patience will replace Rob Davies from September.

We say heartfelt thanks also to Cate Robbins, stepping down as parent governor, and to staff governors Tom Loveday and Amanda Davies. Good luck with the new job and new baby respectively! We will be looking to recruit two new staff governors. Please do be in touch if you are interested.

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