

# Clifford Bridge Governor Newsletter



Spring term 2018

Excellence at Clifford Bridge Academy

**Welcome** to the Spring's governor newsletter.

*This has been a busy term keeping up-to-date with the national and local picture of education by attending Local Authority conferences and briefings. We have made a number of school visits and I hope that you enjoy reading a little about them here. If you'd like to learn more about the role of a school governor, or perhaps are considering becoming one yourself, please contact any one of us via the school office and we'd be happy to chat to you over a cup of tea.*



*On a sad note, the Trust says goodbye to our Chair of Directors, Lois Whitehouse. On Wednesday there was an assembly at Walsgrave Academy*

*to say "thank you" for the immense dedication and work she has given over the years. Lois has been fundamentally instrumental in the success of the Clifford Bridge journey. As a parent governor at Walsgrave Academy back in 2012, she was a key advocate in forming a federation with their outstanding school and our struggling one. She holds a belief that all children, no matter what their background deserve the right to a good education and wanted to share the excellent practise that her school had achieved with us. As Chair of Directors she continued to work hard to ensure the best education for even more children as we welcomed Whittle Academy, and more recently, Hearsall Academy into the Trust.*

*As a parent, I would like to thank her for influencing the quality of my children's education at Clifford Bridge. As a governor, she has taught me how to keep the balance between challenge and support. And as a netball player... well, she was always ten steps ahead...*

*Good Luck and thank you from all Clifford Bridge governors, staff, parents and children, past and present. We wish you a fabulous future.*

**Rebecca Male**  
**Chair of governors**

**Nikki Clamp** – Parent governor



It was really lovely to be present for the feedback from an external educational consultant this week.

To say that he was impressed is an understatement. Not just with the staff and quality of teaching and learning, but with the attitudes to learning evident in the children across the school. As a parent I listened whilst feeling blessed that my children are lucky to be a part of such an amazing school that has so much good practice to celebrate.

I have also had the chance over the past few months to attend various off-site trips and visits with the children, including Birmingham Museum, the pantomime, Coventry Market and Ullesthorpe. I am always impressed by the children's behaviour, level of enthusiasm and the interactions between them and members of the public. As Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding, it's also good to see all the policies and procedures put into practice that are there to keep your children safe.

I have undertaken some monitoring of maths this term, kindly coordinated by Miss Moore. I absolutely loved the Maths No Problem lessons I was able to sit in on. The energy in the classrooms was both infectious and inspiring, leading myself and Miss Moore to want to stay for the entire lesson in every room. What a great initiative it is, helping to really embed and master all areas of maths.

**MATHS**   
**NO PROBLEM!**

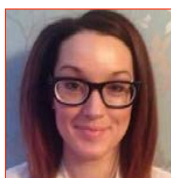
### **Abigail Beasley – Parent governor**



In February, I had the opportunity to attend a regional conference for school governors which gave me a really valuable insight into some of the challenges faced by schools at

the moment and that I can share with the rest of the governing body here at Clifford Bridge. There was a mix of different topics covered, including the challenges around special educational needs and school funding, how to be successful as a multi academy trust and what OFSTED look for from school governors. The day finished with an incredibly inspiring talk by Ashley John-Baptiste about the challenges faced by children in care and how a few key people can change a life. I strongly recommend you look him up on Youtube – what an incredible journey!

### **Gemma Smith – Parent governor**



As part of our Governing Body meeting in January we, as Governors, had an introduction to Maths No Problem. It was really interesting to understand how this

new teaching technique has been introduced at Clifford Bridge and the children are adjusting to the new style of teaching.

I have also continued my monitoring of the Early Years function, meeting recently with Miss Knibbs to review data and discuss the findings of a recent external report. Early Years Foundation Stage at Clifford Bridge has been described as consistently excellent.

### **Elizabeth Kent – Co-opted governor**

My name is Elizabeth Kent and I am the new Safeguarding Governor for Clifford Bridge Academy. I am a trained teacher and have worked in schools for ten years. My previous role was working as a Designated Safeguarding Lead in a school in London and now I support schools across Coventry with safeguarding policy and practice. I am very much looking forward to being part of Clifford Bridge Academy and getting to know the community!

### **Rebecca Male – Parent governor**



In February I attended Warwickshire training for chairs of school governors along with the chairs of Walsgrave, Whittle and Hearsall academies. It was a useful

day of sharing ideas for good chairing practise and self-reflection on our own skills. Later in the term, we met with Mrs Docking to discuss some of these ideas on self-evaluation and other areas where we could improve governance further.

The spring Local Authority briefing provided an oversight of how schools need to be ready for new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and how the LA was supporting schools with these new regulations. Funding was also at the top of the agenda and we are all still aware of the challenges that continue to face schools budgets locally and nationally.

As SEND link governor I have met twice this term with Mrs Collett to monitor the progress of our SEN children. I have been pleased to see that the progress they are making is in line with their peers and the new Individual Education Plans are more 'user friendly' in setting targets and marking the children's achievements. I also enjoyed watching the School Council's special assembly for Autism Week. The Council explained autism to the school in terms of our similarities and differences and how we should celebrate both, including the ones that cannot be seen. It was very powerful hearing these young role models talk sensitively and maturely about autism and I'm sure it had more impact on their friends than any talk given by a grown-up. Well done!