

Governors Newsletter April 2019



Chairs page

Dear parents and carers,

The Easter break is in sight which means we are almost two thirds of the way through this academic year. Doesn't time fly when you are having fun!

This half term the governors have been looking at the impact of the PE & Sports premium, reflecting on the schools action plan and considering forthcoming plans.

The introduction of Willow room has been discussed and a review of the impact after the first 6 weeks is planned to ensure the needs of all our children are being met.

Spring term is also the end of the schools financial year and the school finance team and I have been looking at the school budget for the next financial year.

You should have all received the letter updating you on the funding issues faced by schools and I can only reiterate the challenges schools are facing with reduced school budgets, funding cuts for SEN but with the heightened

expectation on schools to support the emotional health and wellbeing of all children.

Over the last year, Spixworth Infant School has considered all of its expenses and worked hard to keep these to a minimum without forfeiting our high expectations for the quality and breadth of the learning the children receive and experiences had. We would urge you to continue your support in campaigning for improved funding for your school. If you would like to make representations but not sure how, please refer to the letter, available on the school website or speak to the school office.

As you are aware, Mrs Murphy will be leaving the school at the end of this term. Being one of the first faces most of our children saw on their first day of school, I am sure you will all join me and my fellow governors in thanking Mrs Murphy for all her hard work and commitment to the school over the last 6 years and wish her the very best for her future endeavours.

Angela Eastick
Chair of Governors

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/pupil premium
- 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 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 future direction of the school

There are no specific qualifications or skill sets required to be a governor. All we ask is that you have the motivation, desire and willingness to contribute towards the continuing improvement of the school and make a difference.

I have asked our newest governor, Julia, to share her experience of joining the governing body:

"I joined the governing body as a parent governor last November and have really enjoyed my first 4 months.

It has been a great opportunity to contribute to the school using my existing skills whilst learning new skills through the training I have received.

School governors form the largest volunteer force in the country so if you share our enthusiasm for the performance and direction of the school and are interested in a rewarding role then have a chat with either myself or one of the other governors to find out more about what is involved."

Spring Term Monitoring

Staff & whole School Development and Training

All staff and governors are required to carry out professional development throughout the year.

This term, all governors have had Prevent training, and the chair and vice chair attended the 'Holding School leaders to Account' training course at the professional development centre.

Mrs Betts will be expanding her current role at the school after Easter and will undertake training in the next few weeks to become a Designated Safeguarding Lead.



Parents, Partners & Community

The governors are always looking at improvements in the way we communicate with our families and so we have chosen to trial an online survey for the latest parent questionnaire.

Your feedback really is important to us when making decisions about your school, so please do take the time to complete this.

As well as reviewing the responses to the questionnaire, governors will also be looking at the uptake to see whether electronic communication is better received than the paper questionnaires. If successful, future online surveys will be considered.

We will be holding a parent form on Tuesday 30th April, 9am. The topic of discussion will be announced after the Easter break.

Premises Development

As I am sure most of you are aware, Norfolk County Council have concluded their consultation into the closure of 46 out of the 53 Surestart centres across the county and we have had confirmation that the Spixworth hub will close.

Discussions have taken place both internally and with NCC with regards to the future of the Spixworth hub and how best this space can be used to benefit our school. We hope to be able to provide more details on this next term.

The Whole Child

This half term saw the introduction of Willow Room. Governors have visited the room and spoken to school leaders as to the positive impact the room has had on both the children accessing Willow room and the school as a whole.

Children working at greater depth are also benefiting from teacher lead maths and English clubs at lunch time.

We will be reviewing the schools progress data next half term to monitor how this child specific support has impacted learning outcomes.



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