



Billingshurst Primary School

Governor Newsletter

Learning, growing and achieving excellence together

March 2021

Hello and welcome to our spring term newsletter.

When we wished you Merry Christmas last year, we had hoped to see all pupils again in January but knew there was a possibility that the nation would once again be placed into lockdown. The school had planned for this eventuality and was prepared and ready to deliver remote learning so that all pupils were able to have access to the same curriculum and learning opportunities whether they were at home or in class.

As well as acknowledging all the hard work that everyone at the school has put in during this tremendously difficult time, we wanted to thank you, the parents and carers for all you have done. Providing your children with encouragement and support in a world of uncertainty quite rightly deserves recognition. We know lockdown was hard for people for many different reasons – and home schooling wasn't a situation anyone had wanted for the start of 2021!

On Monday 8th March we witnessed the children coming back into school with smiles on their faces. They were eager to see their classmates and teachers and pleased to be in familiar surroundings. This is thanks to you. And while there is no doubt that there is still a long road ahead before the school is functioning without any Covid-19 restrictions, every day we edge closer to that goal.

The governors and school listened to your feedback from the previous lockdown and made some changes to enhance communication between the school and home. We have been pleased to learn that you have found the year group emails and telephone calls with class teachers valuable and plans are in place for governors to hear from children about their experiences of lockdown, home learning and the return to school.

Welcome to new governors

We'd like to introduce four new members of the governing board who joined us at the beginning of this term: Sara Longley, Kate Kulka, Stephanie Roberts-Bibby and David Clark.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting and talking to the children, staff and parents in person when the pandemic restrictions subside. I think being a governor is a very important role as it gives you an amazing opportunity to ensure that the children have the very best education we can provide."
Sara Longley

"I'm delighted to be a new governor at BPS. As a relatively new arrival in Billingshurst I'm really looking forward to getting more involved in the community and using my experience as a former teacher and heritage educator to help however I can." Kate Kulka

"I live in Billingshurst and I'm excited to have joined the team of governors as I wanted to make a difference to the lives of children. Every child has masses of potential and it's our role as adults to make sure that is harnessed in our children, hence me joining the board."
Stephanie Roberts-Bibby

"I'm extremely proud to join the Governing Body of Billingshurst Primary school as I see this as an ideal way to become more involved in the community. I have worked in education for over 20 years and I hope that the skills I have gained can help all of the children achieve their very best." David Clark

A key area of focus for governors continues to be the monitoring of safeguarding, well-being of pupils and staff, and of course the risk assessment, including COVID related control measures. With school visits limited we have been in regular contact with the senior leadership team and representatives from WSCC online to monitor this. The safety of our school community is our highest priority and we thank you for all you are doing to support us by following the guidance.

We have also been monitoring the effectiveness of the curriculum and have enjoyed seeing examples of children's work shared on social media, both from home learning and those in school. Our thanks to all of the children for working so hard during this time.

Please use the governor email address to get in touch with us, your feedback and comments are always welcome. As we are volunteers, we know you will appreciate we can't always reply to your emails immediately, but we will review any feedback or comments made at one of our termly meetings.

If you have concerns or worries about something that is directly affecting your child, we encourage you in the first instance to contact their class teacher and the school directly to get the matter resolved.

Last but not least, we'd like to wish you all a very happy Easter and we looked forward to seeing you all in the summer term!



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