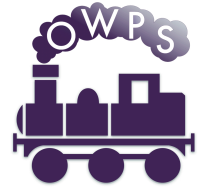


Governor Line



A word from the Chair...

Firstly I hope you all had a nice summer and have settled back into school routine successfully. This is my first news letter since being appointed the Chair this month. I am keen to continue the good work already completed in keeping communication open between parents and the Governing Body so you are aware of what we do to help and support the school.

My first comment must of course be a big thank you to Sarah Giffen, the out going Chair, for her good work over the years and the support she has shown me in the hand over process.

I am a parent governor and have two children in the school, one in Reception and one in year four. I have been involved in the Governing Body for around a year now and am looking forward to taking on the role of Chair. I hope to bring skills to the role from my day job to improve the school and the Governing Body further.

This year has seen significant changes to the membership of the Governing Body and I am happy to report that almost all posts are filled for the start of this academic year, with only three parent Governor roles vacant. Later in the newsletter you will find details of all the membership types and the individuals that make up our team.

In future publications I hope to invite some of the team to share a little about who they are and what roles they take on within the Governing Body, something we would have liked to start in this newsletter but with the changes that have taken place was not possible.

I hope you find this publication helpful and informative and look forward to a great year ahead!

Kind regards
Steve Parrott, Chair of Governors

Parking

A constant item on our agenda at each meeting is that of parking at the school and the health and safety implications of this for the school. We would like to reiterate the request of Mr Eardley in Wistow Ways for all parents to please park responsibly in the marked bays or at Napier Place and refrain from parking on the grass verges or double yellow lined areas, this is purely with the safety of the children and other road users in mind.

Building Works

We are very pleased with the work that has been completed in the school over the summer holidays to bring the toilets in the older part of the school up to the standard of the new build, and the fantastic re-finish of the hall floor. This work was completed on time with no disruption to the school year, which is great news and a credit to the contractors involved.

Also I'm sure you will all have seen the work being undertaken on the mound! The work will see this play area become a safer and cleaner place to play and make it more pleasing visually.

Parents Forum

Last year the Governing Body wherever possible had a governor in attendance at each of the Parents Forums hosted by Mr Eardley. This year we hope to keep this commitment so we can get a better understanding of the feelings of the parent body and subjects raised and you can all meet us.

However, I would point out to you that our attendance is purely as an observer and not as a sounding board direct to the Governing Body.

If you have any issues or concerns that you feel need to be raised, these should be directed in the first instance to Mr Eardley and then to the Chair of Governors if a resolution is not found.

Catering

Catering has been and will continue to be a regular item on the agenda for both the full Governing Body and Resources Committee, fantastic leaps forward have been made to make school dinners more interesting with the introduction of many initiative, involving the children, parents and more recently members of the local community.

Mr Eardley and the catering committee along with the parents that attended the catering meeting at the end of last year have some great ideas to keep the momentum of improvement throughout this year.

I am very happy to report that catering started last year with a deficit of £13,835 and ended the year nearly breaking even! This is a great position to start the new academic year and we may even see catering make a small profit this year.

FOWS

Every year FOWS do great work to support our school and are always on the look out for additional help and support for events if you can help please contact Tracy Chapman.

✉ tracyachapman@yahoo.co.uk



Staff Meetings

Another area that last year we were keen to get involved in was staff meeting to get a better view of the work of the staff at the school and how the Governing Body can better support them.

We will be attending as many of these as possible this year and look forward to working with our excellent teaching peers.

Farewell & Thank you!

It is with regret that as a Governing Body we have to say farewell to 3 of our Parent Governors who have decided to resign their posts!

John Elliott has been a member of the Governing Body for almost 8 years, Steve Hunt 7 Years and last but not least Lea Hunt for 3 Years and we are sorry to see them leave!

We wish them all the best as they move on and thank them for their many years of help and support at the school!

We will bid them farewell and will miss them all at our meetings but at the same time look forward to welcoming three new Governors very soon.

International School Award

We are thrilled to report that the school has secured the International School Award 2011-2014 and been given the feedback that the standard of work in the school as 'Outstanding'!



This is a true credit to all involved, especially Karen Campbell, and our thanks as a Governing Body goes out to all involved for achieving this reward for the school.

The school is very proud of it's international work and quite rightly so! We feel sure this award will only strengthen the resolve to improve things even further over the coming year.

Parent Governor Vacancies

The constitution of the school's Governing Body allows for the appointment of 6 Parent Governors. Appointments are made by election. The number of vacancies to be filled on this occasion is 3. The term of office is 4 years.

Please note the following eligibility requirements when considering your nomination:

- Only parents/carers who now have and will have children registered at the school on Wednesday 19th October 2011 are eligible to stand for election or make a nomination. The eligibility rules, which must be read carefully.
- Nominations must be signed and dated by a proposer and a seconder and countersigned by the candidate. Nominations must be returned to Mr Eardley by Monday 10th October 2011.

Any nomination received after this date cannot be included in the election

- Candidates are encouraged to submit a brief election statement (not more than 200 words) giving autobiographical details and such other information and views as they wish. They may not indicate that they are endorsed or supported by any group or association. Election statements must be returned to Mr Eardley by Wednesday 12th October 2011.
- The distribution of ballot papers and other arrangements relating to the voting will be on Thursday 13th October 2011. Voting will take place from Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st October 2011. Completed ballot papers must be returned by the end of school on Friday 21st October 2011 at the latest.

Ballot papers received after this date will not be accepted

What is the role of a Parent Governor ?

As a school governor, duties will include:

- Assisting with setting the strategic direction, policies and objectives for the school
- Approving the school budgets
- Reviewing as a board the schools progress against the budget and objectives/targets
- playing a part in appointing staff
- Although you represent parents' views, you are not delegates and other parents cannot mandate you on how you should vote

As a board we attend :

- Full Governing Body meeting once a term
- One or both sub committees meeting once a term covering 'Resources' and 'Teaching & Learning'
- Working groups to look at subjects that require collaboration and review, meeting once a term

As a Governor your basic commitment would be to attend meetings, equating to 3 or 4 meetings per term all held currently on Monday nights after 6pm. Over and above this commitment there are key roles within the Governing Body that you may wish to consider but they are all entirely voluntary.

The Governing Body is designed to take on the views and experience of a cross section of the local community and the Parent Governor role is to represent the parent body and as such anyone who is a parent or carer, regardless of experience can apply and offer benefit!

The role is highly rewarding and we would encourage you to review the wealth of data that is available about being a Governor before deciding whether to apply. A good place to start is <http://www.direct.gov.uk> and search for 'Volunteering as a school or college governor'.

All Governors are offered full training to support their work at the school.

Orton Wistow Primary School - List of Governors

Parent Governors

Parent governors are elected by and from the parents of registered pupils at the school. The school will advise parents when there are vacancies.

Steve Parrott
Chair

Miguel Regojo

Melanie Erbe

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Authority Governors

These appointments are made by the local authority and may reflect the local political balance. Nominations are put forward by the school governing body and local political parties.

Carly Pearson

Stuart Cleworth

Partnership governors

These appointments are made at foundation schools to represent the local community and can include parents of children at the school. Foundation Schools can advise when the next vacancy will occur and can register interests.

Shelley Kingston

Peter Rawson

Richard Warr

Staff Governors

Teacher governors are elected from the teaching and support staff at the school. At Orton Wistow the Headteacher has chosen to be a governor. Support staff governors are elected by and from the non-teaching staff employed at the school.

Simon Eardley
Headteacher

Emma Holliday

Tracy Taylor

Community Governors

These appointments are made by the governing body to enable the governing body to add specific areas of expertise especially from local businesses. If you are interested this post, please contact the school directly.

Mark Hutchins

Antony Eager

Associate Governors

Governing bodies can benefit from being able to draw on expertise and experience from outside their formal membership. The governing body can appoint associate members to serve on one or more governing body committees and attend full governing body meetings.

Colin Marks
Deputy Head

David Battersby

Jackie Orchard
Business Manager

Marian Macey
Platform One


Clerk to Governors

An important role ensuring the governing body's work is well organised. The clerk offers information and advice particularly on matters involving the law and procedures.

Sue Nalton

If you have any comments or concerns to raise with the Governing Body on any subject please contact Sue Nalton the Governors Clerk who will be pleased to assist.

 snalton@hotmail.com

 01733 370 646 (school office)