

Governor Line



A word from the Chair...

I hope you are all well and welcome to my second Governor Line. As the new Academic year started I attended the first Parent Forum and was offered feedback on what best to cover in Governor Line moving forward. The 2 main points were; more regular/shorter publications and more detail of what our active roles are within the school.

As a result of this feedback we have agreed to publish a Governor Line each half term and keep the detail to 2 sides of A4 as a maximum. I hope that the articles over page will help you understand the roles that individual Governor plays within the school. I will endeavor to have at least 2 articles from other Governors each publication, so over the year you get a good idea of what we do behind the scenes.

I have had a busy month working with the Senior Leadership team seeing through the changes in the office of the school, and look forward to welcoming new team members to their roles in 2012. I also had to make the hardest decision yet in this role, that to close the school on the 30th November, not a decision that I enjoyed making and certainly not taken lightly! I can only hope that my decision to communicate with you as early as possible, limited the disruption for you all.

Finally, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope you all have a great break!

Kind regards

Steve Parrott, Chair of Governors

Parking

Parking is a real problem for our school like many others both in Peterborough and nationally. We are actually very lucky, having so many parking bays directly outside the school on Wistow Way and in addition, have use of a car park so close to the school.

Despite these provisions and numerous requests we still see illegally and badly parked cars daily outside the school.

The double yellow lined areas along Wistow Way are only on sections that are dangerous to park, such as on the long corners and opposite the parking bays and traffic calming measures. Parking on any of these areas is extremely dangerous and ultimately could result in someone being injured.

The school has an obligation to provide all the children and their families a safe environment both in and around the school, and we will continue to work with the local Police and Council to ensure safety on the roads. It is not the responsibility of the school to provide parking for parents, simply to maintain the safety of our children and promote legal and safe parking.

Farewell & Thank you!

Mike Dennis and Sue Brooks will be leaving us after years of service at the school and are both familiar faces to many! We all wish them both a happy retirement, well deserved after so many years at the school!

We have also already bid farewell to Tracy Taylor earlier in the term, both a member of staff and fellow Governor. We were sorry to see her go!

Curriculum Evening

70 parents attended the 6th annual curriculum evening. Each team in the school prepared workshops focusing on reading, writing and numeracy skills.

The feedback from parents was great and we would like to thank all the teachers for their hard work and effort for making the evening such a success.

Governors

Tracy Taylor leaving the school opened a vacancy for a Staff Governor, an election took place in October and Sue Matthewman was duly elected.

At the beginning of the term we also had 3 Parent Governor vacancies. Following the election notifications that went out to all parents we had 3 interested applicants who put themselves forward, which very cleanly filled the 3 vacancies without the need for a full ballot. Our 3 new Governors are:

Tanya Ashton, Faye Attwood and David Perkins

These new appointments complete the Governing Body line up and we currently carry no vacancies.

Mel Erbe - Responsible Officer

As a Fellow Chartered Financial Planner this role seemed a great fit for me, as it carries a requirement to have knowledge and experience in Financial Management. So I volunteered to take up this role, knowing that by doing this, I can effectively represent you as one of your elected Parent Governors.

The Responsible Officer role is intended to provide an independent oversight of our schools financial affairs and report to the Governors Resource Committee.

My main duties are to provide assurance that:

- The financial responsibilities of the Governing Body are being properly discharged;
- Resources are being managed in an efficient, economical and effective manner;
- Sound systems of internal financial control are being maintained
- Financial considerations are fully taken into account in reaching decisions.

In practice this means that I carry out regular checks of invoices, receipts and general accounting to do with the running of the school. To maintain the independence and integrity of the role I am not a voting member of the Resource Committee.

I look forward to serving you all for the next 4 years.

Antony Eager, Chair - Performance Management Committee

The Performance Management Committee, made up of myself, Peter Rawson and Shelley Kingston is tasked with reviewing the Head Teacher's performance objectives under the guidance of Andrew Matthews from the Local Authority.

Between 1:00pm and 4:00pm

- The committee meet and review 2010 – 2011 objectives. Andrew Matthews joins the PM Committee to discuss evidence pack provided by the Head regarding his previous year's performance against the objectives documented.
- The committee review proposed new objectives for the Head for 2011 – 2012. These objectives already having been drafted between the Head and Andrew Matthews during the morning.
- The Head then joins the meeting to hear feedback and clarify understanding from evidence pack regarding 2010 – 2011 performance, and the collected parties agree new objectives, and measurement criteria for 2011 – 2012.
- A formal recommendation on the Heads remuneration and supporting documentation is then made to the Salaries Sub-Committee, made up of; Steve Parrott (Chair of Governors), Carly Pearson (Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee) and Mark Hutchins (Chair or Resources Committee).