

# Governor Line



## A word from the Chair...

After a very busy end to 2011 with our Ofsted inspection we have started 2012 in a good position as a school with a strong leadership team and robust procedures and policies in place.

Our Ofsted inspection went very well and I am sure you have all had the time now to read through the report, the most reassuring thing as a Governing Body, and indeed a parent was that there were no 'surprises' from the report, the inspectors praising us for things we knew we do well and highlighting the same opportunities to improve that our senior leadership team were already making headway into addressing!

My heartfelt thanks goes out to Mr Eardley and all of his team for their commitment during the inspection process, and of course thank you to all the parents that completed a pre inspection questionnaire!

*Kind regards*  
*Steve Parrott, Chair of Governors*

## Parking

Parking remains an item that comes up in every Governors meeting and continues to be a subject or complaints to the school.

Earlier in the Year Mr Eardley and I met with a representative of the Safer Roads Partnership of Peterborough and observed a typical morning outside the school. We were disheartened by what we saw, both in terms of parking and general road safety.

As a result of this meeting the enforcement team for Peterborough Parking will be increasing their attendance at the school and will issue tickets for parking offenses. In addition the signage (including double yellow lines) will be reviewed by the planning authority shortly and appropriate changes to ensure safety may be put in place.

May we also remind parent that the car park at the front of the school is not for parent use during school hours. When the car park is made available for parents during events can we please ask all users to adhere strictly to the marked bays.

## School Business Manager, Jackie Orchard

As some of you may have seen in the local press Jackie Orchard our School Business Manager has been awarded the Advanced Diploma of School Business Management (ADSBM), one of only 45 to achieve the standard! The Governors would like to Congratulate Mrs Orchard on this fantastic achievement.

Since starting Mrs Orchard has brought her considerable skill in managing budgets and saving costs to excellent use at the school, helping to secure many savings and drawing on funding avenues not previously tapped into. One such saving is the forthcoming replacement of the very old and very inefficient heating in Platform One which would have come at considerable cost if Mrs Orchard had not located an energy efficiency grant that allows the school to pay for the new heating from the savings on energy alone, which is a great result!

Without Mrs Orchard and the role of School Business Manager the school would not be able to secure savings and work smarter with our increasingly stretched budget, the role has sometimes been portrayed by the press as 'running a school like a commercial business' but this is not the case, the role simply aims to challenge current practices and expenditure and help free up funds for the most important role of the school, Education! Not to mention the time it frees up for the senior teaching staff to support learning.

## Sue Matthewman - School Council Governor

A relatively new role to the Governing Body, the School Council Governor was created to explore new ways to understand the feeling of the children on a day to day basis, rather than just how they are feeling at the specific time they are completing a questionnaire.

On the 23rd February 2012, the first meeting observed by our new representative was held and some very interesting and helpful observations and Student views were fed back to the Full Governing Body, below is a flavor of that feedback:

- A mature and enthusiastic group of young people, with members of the council showing great pride in being members.
- All opinions of the members of the Council are fully listened to and nobody is excluded from discussions.
- Mrs Johnson was encouraging and helped the Chair and Vice Chair with appropriate questions that they may ask in accordance with the discussion.
- The members understood that they may not be the ones to benefit from suggestions put forward now, but future generations of Wistow children will.
- The School Council members and Mrs Johnson are very pleased that there is a point of contact with the Governors.
- St. Botolphs have been invited to attend a School Council Meeting at OWPS as they are considering a School Council of their own.

## Peter Rawson & David Battersby, Health & Safety Governors

Through regular visits the Health & Safety Governors check the schools processes and procedures to ensure compliance with the legal requirements of the Health & Safety at work act and provision of a safe and secure environment for children to learn and work with the Schools representatives to implement improvements.

In late November the first of an on going twice yearly survey (Summer & Winter) was completed to identify physical hazards on site and create an action plan. This plan has since been reviewed by the Full Governing Body and will be actioned by the school Business Manager.

In addition the Health & Safety Governors review other items during periodic spot checks, including:

- COSHH regulations
- Contractor control documents
- Schools PAT testing
- Check Fire records including fire drill and bells test documents

### Contact FOWS



Every year the Friends raise vital funds, allowing us to undertake projects that the school could not otherwise fund. This year we are really excited about the kitchenette project for the school hall which will be a fantastic addition to the school.

If you can offer any assistance at future events please contact Amanda Wells

 01733 236 094

 [friends.owps@hotmail.com](mailto:friends.owps@hotmail.com)

In our last 2 publications we have tried to give you a flavor of the varied roles of the Governing Body and the Individuals involved, If you have any comments regarding the content of Governor line or any other subject you wish to raise with the Governing Body, please contact Sue Nalton the Governors Clerk who will be pleased to assist.

 [snalton@hotmail.com](mailto:snalton@hotmail.com)

 01733 370 646 (school office)