



Burlington Junior School GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER Autumn Term 2019

What do Governors do?

Governors play an important role in the leadership and management of the school and are responsible for making sure that the school is run well. This includes ensuring that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction, that every child has access to good quality education and the opportunity to reach their full potential and that the school's money is well spent.

As part of this, Governors regularly visit the school. During this term these visits have included:

- meeting with the Headteacher to keep up-to-date on what's happening at school
- attending meetings of the full Governing Body, the Teaching and Achievement Committee and the Staffing and Resources Committee
- undertaking learning walks to see how school improvement targets are being implemented
- seeing children learning in the classroom
- reviewing policies, performance data and budgets
- supporting concerts and other events

Governors have also attended two training sessions conducted by the Local Authority on readiness for Ofsted and supporting and challenging the school.

Who are the Governors?

Alison Beckett Headteacher
Lucy Grimshaw Local Authority & Vice Chair
Sian Hart Parent
Miriam Ireland Parent
Aileen Moss Co-opted & Chair
Suzanne Robson Co-opted
Linda Scargill Staff

School Council Governor Representatives

Two members of the School Council have been elected as Governor Representatives. Their role is to act as a link between pupil and the Governors, to provide feedback to the Governors on pupils' views and ideas and to bring questions from Governors back to the School Council to help them make decisions that include pupils' viewpoints.

Class Dojo

"Since implementation of Class Dojo we are much more aware of the things that happen whilst at school. Also the Dojo Points System is a great way to monitor progress." Parent Feedback

Class Dojo was introduced in September and has been positively received by pupils, staff and parents. It allows teachers to reward pupils for progress, skills and attitudes and allows pupils to share their learning by adding photos and videos to their own individual portfolios.

If you want to get in touch please either leave a message at the school office or contact Aileen Moss, Chair of Governors, directly by email at a.moss@bjs.eriding.net

Reading for Pleasure

This term the school has been promoting reading for pleasure. This has included creating reading displays and reading areas in classrooms and around the school, purchasing new books, giving pupils opportunities to read for pleasure and sharing books in assemblies. At our December meeting, Governors were given a tour of the school to see the reading displays and areas and Mr. Hardwick (Reading Co-ordinator) spoke to us about reading for pleasure is being promoted and encouraged throughout the school. Recommended reading books for each year group can be found in the Curriculum section of the school website.

Parent Questionnaires

As Governors we conduct a parent questionnaire at least annually to gather your views on different aspects of the school. This has now been updated so that questions are in line with the new Ofsted questions. Our last questionnaire was conducted during the Autumn Term parent evenings. The feedback showed that 96.8% of parents agreed/strongly agreed that their child was happy at Burlington and 97.56% agreed/strongly agreed that their child felt safe at the school.

However, 27.28% of parents said that they did not know what the Governing Body does or how to get in touch with us. We hope that the termly Governor Newsletter will help you to better understand our role and what we do.

The school has also looked at how it deals effectively with bullying as a result of your feedback. Bullying is defined as behaviour that is repeated and intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally. However, bullying is a word that is often used when children just fall out with one another. Children are made aware of exactly what bullying is and that this is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. If your child does fall out with another child and you are concerned about this then please contact their class teacher or Mrs Robson (the school's Pastoral Support Advisor) so that these issues can be addressed.

Governor Vacancies

We currently have four vacancies on our Governing Body and are particularly interested in finding people who have time to devote to the role and who have financial skills and expertise. If you are a parent or grandparent of a child at the school and are interested or know of anyone from the community who may be interested then we would be happy to provide further information. Please either contact the school office or the Chair of Governors directly at the email address below.

Attendance

Attendance for this term is currently 93.9% which is below the national expected attendance average of 96%. A booklet explaining attendance and absence is available from the school and can also be found on the school website on the Parents page under Attendance.



The Governors would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

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