



Burlington Junior School GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER Summer Term 2019

Welcome to our first Governor Newsletter.

Governors play an important role in the leadership and management of the school but we realise that much of our work is behind the scenes so many of you don't know what we do. This came out in our parent feedback questionnaire last term with 37% of parents saying that they did not know what the Governing Body does or how to get in touch with us. We hope that a termly Governor Newsletter will help you to better understand our role and what we do.

What do Governors do?

Governors 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
- ensuring that every child has access to good quality education and the opportunity to reach their full potential
- ensuring that the school's money is well spent

The full Governing Body meets twice each term and we also have a Teaching and Achievement Committee and a Staffing and Resources Committee which both meet once during the term.

Here are just some of the areas that we have discussed and made decisions on during the year:

- attendance
- behaviour
- attainment and progress
- ensuring a broad and balanced curriculum
- staffing structure
- safeguarding
- budget forecasts and allocation of funding
- actions taken to address the school's improvement priorities

Governor Visits

Governors have visited the school on many occasions throughout the school year to attend meetings and undertake monitoring. This has included:

- watching children learning in the classroom
- looking at children's books
- reviewing and analysing performance data
- attending training
- completing safeguarding and health and safety audits
- meeting with the Headteacher to keep up-to-date on what's happening at school
- meeting with the school's Improvement Advisor
- supporting concerts and other events

Who are the Governors?

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

Aileen Moss is the Chair of Governors and Lucy Grimshaw is the Vice-Chair

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

Parent Questionnaires

As Governors we conduct parent questionnaires at least annually to gather your views on different aspects of the school. Our last questionnaire was conducted during the Spring Term parent evenings and the school has looked at the following questions as a result of your feedback.

The school lets me know what I can do to help my child

We encourage you to read with your child every evening, learn spellings, complete the weekly homework tasks and make use of the maths times tables websites. From September children will be bringing home a 'Knowledge Organiser' that will give details of topics and key vocabulary and questions and an overview of each half-term's work. Long term plans for each year group will be available on the school website. We are also introducing a new communication system called 'Class Dojo' which will allow teachers to reward pupils for skills and values (for example: working hard, being kind, helping others) and allow pupils to share their learning with you by adding photos and videos to their own individual portfolios. Further details about this will be sent out in September but you can also visit www.classdojo.com/en-gb/resources/#parents to find out more.

The school deals effectively with bullying

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. During assemblies the 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. The school office can forward any enquiries to the Chair of Governors or alternatively you can contact her directly at the email address below.

*Thank
you!*

The Governors would like to thank all the staff and pupils for their hard work throughout the year and wish the Year 6 leavers every success for the future. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to those families and staff who will be joining us in September. Finally, the Governors would like to thank you for your continuing support of the school. We wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer holiday and look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

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