



Burlington Junior School

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER Autumn Term 2021 (1)

WELCOME

The Governors would like to welcome all pupils, parents and staff back to Burlington Junior School after the summer break. A special welcome to all our new Year 3 pupils and parents and to the new staff that have joined the school.

We would also like to welcome Marie-Clare Gazeley to the Governing Body as a parent governor.

WHO ARE THE GOVERNORS?

Alison Beckett Headteacher

Marie-Clare Gazeley Parent Governor

Lucy Grimshaw Local Authority Governor & Vice Chair

Sian Hart Parent Governor

Mark Langley Co-opted Governor

Aileen Moss Co-opted Governor & Chair

Suzanne Robson Co-opted Governor

Kate Sutton Staff Governor

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
- 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

GOVERNOR VACANCIES

We currently have three 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.

OFSTED

During the last academic year, the school received 3 Ofsted inspection visits. The effectiveness of the Governing Body is also inspected during these visits and governors were required to speak to the Ofsted inspectors during the visits made in January and May 2021. The inspection reports state:

- *Governors are checking that leaders are taking appropriate action to ensure that pupils are receiving an education. They are mindful of leaders' workload, especially during the current circumstances.*
- *Governors acknowledge that their usual approach to monitoring the work of leaders has been hindered due to COVID-19 restrictions. They have been unable to make regular visits to school. However, they have sought training that supports them in asking challenging questions of leaders. This enables them to evaluate the impact of the actions leaders are taking.*

GOVERNORS' MEETINGS

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. Due to coronavirus restrictions, all of our Governors' meetings during the last academic year were held virtually so that governors were still able to fulfil their leadership and management role.

Here are just some of the areas that we 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
- implementation of coronavirus guidelines
- remote education provision

The Governors' Meetings for this term are:

Thursday 23rd September - Full Governing Body Meeting

Thursday 7th October - Teaching and Achievement Committee Meeting

Thursday 25th November - Resources and Staffing Committee Meeting

Thursday 9th December - Full Governing Body Meeting

GOVERNOR TRAINING

Governors regularly undertake training and attend courses to help them to carry out their leadership and management role effectively. During the past academic year the training and courses attended and undertaken included:

- curriculum training to enable governors to support and challenge the school and ensure that the curriculum it provides follows National Curriculum requirements, builds on previous knowledge and skills, has been shaped to meet the needs of all pupils based on their backgrounds and prior experiences and builds in assessment to track the progress of pupils
- training on how to become an evidence informed governor
- courses on on-line safety and records management
- training on how to conduct virtual governor visits

All governors are also required to regularly update their Safeguarding, Prevent (safeguarding and supporting those vulnerable to radicalisation) and Data Protection training.

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

