



St Nicholas' School

Governors' Newsletter

November 2014

Welcome to the first Governors' Newsletter of the Academic year 2014/2015.

This newsletter is brought to you by the school Governors with the aim of keeping you informed about the activities of the Governing Body as we work alongside the school staff to keep making St Nick's a great school.

Since the autumn term; CIRB at St. Nicholas School, is now managed by the school governors. All staff and governors have worked hard to ensure a smooth transition to ensure well integrated provision for all the base children. Governors will monitor the progress along with the Local authority officers on regular basis. Vicki Davison, the school SENCO, is managing Special Needs Provision in the school and this includes the Base children.

You can find out who the school Governors are, what they do and their links to the school in the section at the back of this newsletter.

Now, Christmas is fast approaching and we hope everyone is looking forward to all the events that are on leading up to the end of year festivities, including of course our very own talent contest, the Goat Factor!

In this term's newsletter we have updates from the 4 committee areas of the Governing Body, which are Learning, Premises, Resources and Community & Teaching.

Report from the Learning Committee

By Alison Hodgson (Chair)

Welcome to the new academic year! Our committee this year consists of 7 members: Rachel Crouch (Head), Ali Hodgson (Chair), Sean Collins, Carol Kelsey, Lynn Banerji, Barney Anwar and Jo Hacker, with Tracey Fletcher in attendance. We meet at least 3 times this year to discuss curriculum matters and monitor pupil progress.

At our first meeting in October, we looked at the SATs results for summer 2014, which you can see on the next page. We would like to thank all staff and pupils for their dedication and hard work towards these. We have used these results to feed into the School Development Plan (SDP) and determine our priorities for the coming year:

- Reading progress for all
- Improve phonics for EYFS and Year 1
- Attendance – improve to 95%
- P4C (see below)

This academic year also sees the introduction of the New Curriculum, which all staff have been working hard to implement.

SATS Results- Summer 2014

Tables show the % of pupils achieving each Level

KS1 % Pupils	Targets		Results	
	Level 2+		Level 2	Level 3
Including statements?	Yes	No	Yes	No
Maths	94	89	97	24
Reading	90	85	90	34
Writing	88	83	90	19

KS2 % Pupils	Targets		Results			
	Level 4+		Level 4		Level 5	Level 6
Including statements?	Yes	No	Yes	No	-	-
Maths	83	89	85	93	45	11
Reading	81	86	82	86	53	2
Writing	77	82	72	78	27	4
SPAG	72	77	72	79	59	2

Year 1 Phonics % Pupils	2013	Target	Result
	67	65	58

P4C (Philosophy for Children)

This year the children will be taking part in weekly P4C sessions during which they generate questions in response to a stimulus (e.g. a story, object or film clip).

The children vote on which question to discuss and then have a class discussion with the teacher acting as a facilitator.

Children practice specific communication and thinking skills, e.g. they are encouraged to give reasons, examples and counter-examples and to build on, or critically assess others' ideas.

Please see the P4C noticeboard in the school entrance for more information.

Report from the Community Governors

Results of the Parent Questionnaire – July 2014

Thank you to everyone who responded to the parent questionnaire in July this year.

In addition to the scoring statements on the questionnaire forms, a range of comments were provided by respondents which the Governors will discuss at future meetings. All of which will help us to improve our school.

Some of the comments that we received from the questionnaire were:-

“The teachers are very approachable and will always take concerns seriously”

“I am continually impressed by the level of understanding, care and compassion shown by the school”

“You have a strong sense of community and belonging amongst both children and parents”

Here are the questionnaire results based upon the 83 replies we received:-

Statement	% that strongly agree/or agree
My child likes school	95
My child is making good progress	94
Children pupils behave well	91
My child is not bullied or harassed at school	83
Teaching is good	96
I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on	82
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or a problem or a complaint	93
Staff expect my child to work hard and to do his/her best	95
The school is well led and managed	97
Staff treat my child fairly	98
The school seeks the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	82
Staff explain how I can help my child at home – or the school provides appropriate homework	82
Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent	93
There is a good range of activities that m child finds interesting and enjoyable	92
The arrangements for my son/daughter to settle in when he/she started at the school were good	94

On **Friday 7th November**, you may have seen some of the Governors at the school gates asking for views on improving communication between the school and parent/carers; and suggestions on how the school could improve homework provision. We received 74 responses and the results showed parents would like more communication with school via email and texts. The school is now looking at how they can achieve this.

Meanwhile, we are aiming to make ‘Feedback Friday’ a regular monthly activity where we get parents feedback on a range of issues.

Report from the Premises Committee

The beginning of September saw the new Early Years block opening its doors to pupils for the first time. Sunflower, Beanstalk and Bluebell classes are now settled into their new classrooms and have a lovely new environment!

The school roof has now been replaced and the scaffolding has all gone. We would like to thank everyone for their patience during the disruption during last term.

Looking ahead, there are exciting plans to give the school library a facelift, as well as other projects to improve the school site.

Report from the Resources Committee

This term the resources committee have been busy looking at the new pay policy and how it is being implemented. Governors also approved mid-year school budget which is prepared by the school Business Manager and the Headteacher. The budget is monitored regularly throughout the school year and any changes are profiled in in line with the school priorities. The impacts and outcomes of Pupil Premium spending will be considered at the next full governors meeting.

St Nicholas' Governing Body

What are Governors?

We're a group of individuals from different backgrounds – parents, staff, the local authority and the community – who work closely with Mrs Crouch, senior staff and parents to ensure the school does well and that our children are happy and achieving.

What do Governors do?

We have various responsibilities, all of which relate to how the school is run. For example, each year we work with school staff to:

- decide on school improvement policies
- monitor the school's progress against set targets
- approve the budget and expenditure
- support the school through any changes or issues as they arise.

Who's who?

Name	Role	Link to the school
Rachel Crouch	Headteacher	Headteacher
Shilpa Bhatt	Community Governor Chair of Governing Body	Lives and works locally Children's Centre Manager for Oxfordshire County Council
Mark Longford	Community Governor Vice Chair of Governing Body Chair of Premises Committee	Lives and works locally
Julie Carvell	Clerk to the Governing Body	
Sean Collins	Local Authority Governor Chair of Resources Committee	Appointed by Oxford County Council
Alison Hodgson	Local Authority Governor Chair of Learning Committee	Appointed by Oxford County Council
Lynn Banerji	Parent Governor Chair of Community Committee	Parent of Safiya in Y6 and Moley in Y2
Jo Hacker	Staff Governor	Teacher in Y6
Carol Kelsey	Support Staff Governor	Teaching assistant in Y3 and Parent of Samuel in Y4
Kate Stratford	Local Authority Governor	Appointed by Oxford County Council
Sue Townsend	Community Governor	Retired music teacher at St Nick's
Lyndsey Middleton	Parent Governor	Parent of Lachlan in Y4, Cameron in Y2 and Douglas in Bluebells
Bruce Ross-Smith	Parent Governor	Parent of Gabriel (now in Y7 at Cherwell)
Ayesha Siddika	Parent Governor	Parent of Ariyan in Y2
Shabana Anwar-Khalid	Parent Governor	Parent of Noor in Y2 and Mariyah in reception.