

GOVERNOR NEWS! AUTUMN TERM 2011

Welcome to my first Governor News! This is the first of our termly newsletters as your new Chair of Governors and I hope it will be both informative and interesting. I aim to keep you up-to-date with our Committee meetings and strategic decisions which are focussed on improving and moving the school forward for the best learning environment possible for our children.

- What do Governors do?** The key purpose of the Governing Body is to help Clifford Road Primary School provide the best possible education for all of our pupils. We do this by:
- Setting the schools values, vision and long term aims and agreeing the plans and policies
 - Monitoring and evaluating performance, acting as a critical friend to the school to support and challenge the management of the school
 - Ensuring the school is accountable to you, your children, the community and the staff

Who are our Governors? The Governing Body consists of members of staff, parents, members of the community and representatives of the Local Education Authority.
Our Governors are:



Julie Dyer
Chair of
Governors



John Foster
Vice-Chair of
Governors



Fiona Hollands
Chair of
Finance



Steve Wood
Head Teacher



Lisa Dixon
Parent Governor



**Esther
Glen-Gowing**
Parent Governor



Elaine Gooch
LEA Governor



Kris Hampel
Parent Governor



Andrew Pettitt
LEA Governor



Kim Piper
Parent Governor



Michele Quinton
Staff Governor



John Richardson
Community
Governor



Sally-Ann Roberts
Staff Governor



Oz Sparks
Staff Governor



Geoff Sutton
Parent Governor

Autumn Term News! For the spring term Governors meeting we will put forward our new School Improvement Plan that shares the strengths of the school and the areas where we need to make improvements. In doing this we need to consult with all our stakeholders:

- **Pupils:** The school council is now in its second year and is showing itself to be an extremely effective tool in gathering information and putting forward ideas.
- **Staff:** Our curriculum teams and the opportunities to develop middle managers through mentoring have given everybody more opportunity to be involved in the running of the school. A clear agenda for staff meetings and pupil progress dialogues allow us to celebrate success and target weakness. A half day every term for the SLT to strategically plan has helped to shape the direction the school is moving in.
- **Governors:** Through a changing Governing Body building on established procedures such as the performance and attainment committee and Governors in school day governors are asking questions about the school's performance and will be increasing the number of their visits. Governors have attended training on their roles and there is a strong partnership between them and the staff.
- **Parents:** The school strives to improve communication in all areas with parents and takes on board their views. The Parents' Council has produced terms of reference and meets regularly. They recently collected views at a parents evening which are now being collated. The website has been updated and a web team consisting of a number of different stake holders is being formed to keep content new and fresh.
- **The local community:** In the latest County Council schools admissions brochure the school was described as "always" being oversubscribed. The hard work in successfully getting 60 new children to start in reception will certainly pay off in terms of progress and setting up procedures and promoting the school for next year. The school works with the local community and the buildings are used for a variety of different purposes.

OFSTED News! We were last inspected by OFSTED in October 2008 so it is highly likely that we will have a visit from the OFSTED inspectors next term. The OFSTED inspectors evaluate the school and there is now a new OFSTED Framework in place which will mean that they can approach schools with a clear focus on four areas. These are:

- Achievement of Pupils
- Quality of Teaching
- Behaviour and Safety
- Leadership and Management

As well as these four judgements the final judgement of "overall effectiveness" includes:

- The extent to which the school meets the needs of a range of pupils.
- How well the school promotes spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.
- The progression and destination of pupils when they leave the school.

As a new Chair of Governors with many new members on the Governing Body I am interested in hearing from you with any ideas of what you see as strengths of the school and areas for improvement.

You can contact me by email at jade.accounting@tesco.net or by leaving a message at the office and I will contact you at a convenient time.

Many Thanks

Julie Dyer