



GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new parent governor, Shadi Vossough, who joined the governing body in March.

"I am so pleased to introduce myself as a new governor. This is the first time I've held this position and I'm looking forward to learning, sharing and supporting as part of the excellent team that make up the board of governors.

Since our children started at Bridekirk in September we've experienced so much warmth from staff and parents, I have felt quite welcome and strongly drawn to the school community and wanted to deepen my connection. I was pleased for the opportunity to do that through this meaningful strategic role that will no doubt challenge me.



Sustainability and Climate Awareness

Some of the governors and staff have been working on a register to record our progress into sustainability and climate awareness, both within and beyond school. Your children are all very conscious of what needs to be done to help the environment and they actively involve themselves in saving resources, recycling and the need to look after the future of the Earth.

No doubt they get this message from you at home as well so we will be all involved together. You will hear from us and from your children about activities such as battery recycling, book swaps, litter picking, energy saving tips etc. to which we all can contribute. Their "pupil voice" is strong so let's hear them roar!

Ofsted

Following our Ofsted inspection in January, the final report has now been published and is available to view. If you haven't yet had a chance to read this, it can be found here:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/112270>

New Roles on the board:

Nicola Martin has taken over from Rose Rowlands as Safeguarding link governor, overseeing safeguarding arrangements in school.

Philippe Kitchin is now the link governor for Health & Safety
Thanks Team!



Spotlight on... Data protection and Cyber security

This term several governors have been working alongside Mrs Fish and Mrs Beetham to ensure all personal data is handled and processed in school correctly and aligned with best practice. Additional training has been completed and a specialist company has been employed to work as the DPO (data protection officer) for school. Whilst this isn't the most exciting work, it is important that everyone's personal data is handled correctly by school and that governors can be assured that all systems are compliant.

Staff and governors have also had the opportunity to attend a session on Data privacy and records management, outlining some of the pitfalls and ways to keep our data safe.

Thank you Mr Tucker for sharing your expertise!



Traffic and Parking updates:

Earlier this term, with the help of a concerned parent, we were able to organise a meeting with our local councillor, Martin Harris. He visited school, listened to governors, staff and parent concerns and viewed the areas available to park outside school.

We have also had correspondence with the Highways department who confirm that the school's flashing lights are not currently functioning, however they are on the list for replacement. Once the flashing lights are repaired/replaced they will introduce a '20mph when lights flash scheme'. These lights are a really important safety feature and reminder for passing traffic so we have requested that they be fixed as a matter of urgency.

One of the Traffic Management Leads for Cumberland Council in the Allerdale area has agreed to a site visit with Martin Harris, our local councillor in the week of 31/03 to see the traffic and parking situation at school.

The Cumberland Health & Safety team have also visited school recently. With their encouragement, the Highways agency have requested that parking enforcement teams increase patrols in the area to prevent vehicles from parking on double yellow lines or dangerously.

A request has been logged to reduce the speed limit in the area to 40mph, but this is subject to central Allerdale Speeds TRO...a lengthy process!

Highways also suggested organising traffic counters to be put down to that they can gauge the speed on all 4 approaches to decide on a best way forwards. These have been in place for the last week so hopefully will produce some useful data.

If you witness any 'near miss' incident or dangerous parking outside school, please complete a near miss form and hand it in to the school office. We are working on improving the situation for everyone and collating this information does help our case with the council. This forms can be found here:

<https://www.bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk/traffic-parking/>

