



Governor newsletter Winter 2024



Well it's been a very busy autumn term at Bridekirk Dovenby school with lots going on as usual! When we've visited, it's been a joy to see pupils learning, playing, enjoying the outside spaces and working hard on lines and songs for the brilliant Christmas productions!

Governors have visited school as class buddies, monitored Safeguarding, Health & Safety, SEND provision and Collective worship and attended events. We've used the knowledge we gain from these visits to further support the school and impact our decision making.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

Rose



SIAMS

At the start of December, Bridekirk Dovenby school received its SIAMS inspection. This is the Church of England's school inspection system and is completed on a cycle (similar to Ofsted). This is what our school is judged on: (from the SIAMS website)

SIAMS explores ways in which each school's theologically rooted Christian vision drives its work and enables the school to live up to its foundation as a Church school. It does so by seeking to answer six Inspection Questions (IQs).

SIAMS inspection focuses on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. This involves looking at the school's Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish.

It was an extremely busy day, trying to show the inspector everything that BDS is all about. She met with pupils, staff, parents, diocese members and governors, had a learning walk around school and visited collective worship. This enabled a judgement to be made on how we live out our school's Christian vision through many aspects of school life including the curriculum, pastoral support, enrichment activities, collective worship and RE lessons. We will be able to share the outcome and final report in the new year!

Our Christian Vision

At Bridekirk Dovenby School, we nourish the uniqueness of our community. Rooted in love, a rich and diverse curriculum enables all to flourish and grow. Confident and secure, our children reach out, ready to embrace the seasons of life in all its fullness.

Psalm 1 "They are like trees, planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all they do, they prosper."



Your views!

Every year we send out a questionnaire to parents and carers. This is a great opportunity to hear from you and collect your thoughts about how your children are getting on. It would be really helpful if you can take a few minutes to complete this short online questionnaire as we really value your views. It can be accessed via this link or QR code:

<https://forms.office.com/e/5jUewF2EBN>



Spotlight on...

Sustainability

One element of the governors long term strategy and vision for Bridekirk Dovenby is to consider the environment and sustainability of the school and its resources.

Several governors met recently with Mrs Beetham, the School Business Manager, to look at ways to increase our green credentials. The next step is to carry out an audit to consider schools Carbon footprint. The Carlisle Diocese have a Net Zero plan which schools are encouraged to follow. They provide an energy footprint tool and have an action plan to support local schools on this journey.

We hear the School Council have also been busy discussing climate change and a sustainable future and we are hoping to meet with them in the new year to get ideas from the pupils on what they would like to see. We want to encourage our pupils to speak out and have a voice to change our school and local area for the better!

If anyone in our school community has an interest or experience in this area and would be keen to get involved with this project, we would love to hear from you!

Class buddies

Each class is assigned a governor buddy who visits the class to see how they are getting on throughout the year. These are the class buddies this year:

P1 – Silvana Hewitt

P2 – Leah Coe

P3 – Abby Gartland

P4 – Nicola Martin

P5 – Philippe Kitchin/Rose Rowlands



Poverty Proofing© the School Day

This is a nationally recognised tool which offers ideas and resources for schools and leaders. We have begun to identify ways to integrate these ideas into school life so that the experiences the pupils have in school doesn't place too much financial burden on families. We recognise that, at certain times of year, there are a lot of things to pay for and that hardship can be hidden. The governors and school staff are working together to find ways to help without reducing enrichment activities which are of great benefit for the children.

- Getting the best value possible for school trips
- no expectations for new costumes/dress up days which don't need new outfits
- giving plenty of notice for big trips and having staggered payments
- having an online school money system which
- Spreading fundraising activities throughout the year and giving families notice of when they will be.
- Having preloved uniform freely available



There is also the 'Cockermouth relief in need' fund which can support local families with a specific need (transport/school trip/resources). They would be keen to hear from anyone in our local community who is struggling. For more information or to apply, you can contact the Trustees of the Grasmoor mission community directly or ask in the school office.



Parking and Road safety continues to be high on our agenda. This term we have been in touch with the Health and Safety team at Cumberland Council and the Highways agency to inform them of our 'near miss' incidents. We have suggested a number of ways the area around school could be made safer but currently there is nothing else they can put in place. .

Please can we ask everyone to continue to help keep our school community safe by driving and parking carefully near school, especially at the start and end of the school day!

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

MP visit - On behalf of the governors, Mr Kitchen wrote a letter inviting our new local MP to come and visit school with the aim of highlighting our road safety concerns. While he is here, Markus Campbell-Savours has also agreed to do a Q&A with some of our children!



THANK
YOU

A huge thank you goes to the FOBDS team who organised a fantastic Christmas fayre in school. We are really grateful for all the hard work you put in and over £1200 raised! This can go towards projects in school which the children will all benefit from.

If you are interested in joining the FOBDS team please get in touch via school, everyone is very welcome!