



Governor Summer 2024 newsletter

Thank you for having a look at the latest edition of our governor newsletter, I hope you find it interesting. The school governors have been busy this term with many tasks including curriculum monitoring visits, approving the budget and working on our new Christian vision for the school. If there are any other aspects of school governance you would like to hear about or have any questions then please do get in touch at

rose.downing@bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk

I wish everyone a very fun, relaxing and safe summer break!

Rose .

**HELP
NEEDED**

The Wellbeing section on the school website has recently been updated. There is information on what is available in school for pupils and also services available locally.

Please do take a look:

<https://www.bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk/mental-health-and-well-being/>

As well as our current pupils, we also try to reach out and support our local community. The Baby group at St Bridget's church in Bridekirk on Thursday afternoons is very popular but they are desperate for volunteers to keep it running! If you, or someone you know might be willing to help out (even occasionally) then please get in touch with me at the email above.

FOBDS

We would like to thank FOBDS and all of the parents and community for all they do in supporting school and fundraising. Please join us if you can at the **BDS Summer Fayre on the 13th July**. The funds raised go towards a variety of projects in school which benefit the children.





Spotlight on : Governor committees

Within the governor team there are 3 sub-committees which focus on different areas of school life. Each of the governors are linked with one of these, based on their skills and professional knowledge.

Silvana Hewitt - Chair of Curriculum, Personal Development, SEND, Assessment and Progress group.

This group oversees the curriculum to make sure that the teaching of all subjects meets government standards for Intent, Implementation, and Impact. Each subject has a governor who feeds back to this committee. These governors also oversee assessments to see that they are reliable and have impact. Data is monitored to see that progress is good for all children. Personal Development is also monitored by this group to know that all pupils have opportunities beyond academic study so that they will become well-rounded, confident, resilient young people with an understanding of the world around them. One of our group is the link to the SENDCo and champions the needs of SEND pupils in school. We also see that all pupils are fully included in the life of the school and look at the enrichment opportunities available.

Cat Kinghan - Chair of Church and Community, Behaviour and Discipline, Safeguarding group

Our group spends time supporting the school in all these areas and we are a varied bunch. Lynsey Smith, our Primary One teacher, helps support behaviour and discipline strategies throughout the school and promotes wellbeing and mental health. Our newest recruits, Rev Roy Anetts and Nicola Martin are foundation governors who support the church side of our school, helping us to live out our Christian values. Rose Rowlands looks after Safeguarding within our group along with other hats on the governing board, including Chair. Abby Gartland is our FOBDS link on governors and as a parent governor helps share important parent views at meetings. Cat Kinghan, a teaching assistant in P1 and a foundation governor, is working on how our school can engage more with the community - either taking the school into the community or bringing the community into the school. If you have any great ideas on how to do this, please come and find her!

Leah Coe - Chair of Staffing, Admissions, Finance, Health & Safety and Buildings group.

Our group is made up a Local Authority Governor Philippe Kitchen and three Parent Governors: Zoe Brentnall, Sarah Smith and myself Leah Coe. Between us we have experience in Planning, Finance, Management Construction, Engineering and Strategy. Our collective skills help us review & monitor many important aspects of the schools structure. Health and safety audits are undertaken by this group and any findings are implemented. We review the school finances regularly, to see that resources are being used in a sound proper and effective way. We check that safeguarding measures are included in job adverts and will be present at job interviews. We also will look at how pupil numbers are looking for future years and assess any risks that may affect the life of the school.



Parking

We know that parking and traffic outside school is an ongoing concern for many. We are continuing to explore every way in which the situation may be improved. Mrs Fish & Mrs Rowlands met with Mark Jenkinson MP who visited school and, following an in-depth conversation, wrote to Cumberland council and others expressing many of our concerns. The PCSO has visited several times recently to check on parking and we continue to talk to Highways about possible changes that could be made. The traffic management plan and near-miss forms are available on the website. Please help us by reporting any incidents that occur.

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

Please help everyone by parking responsibly!

A FEW FACTS FROM DATA ANALYSIS WE CAN BE PROUD OF:

**IAN
HOLDSWORTH**

Last year, 92 per cent of our children reached the government's "expected" standard for reading at Key Stage 1 against a national average of 68 per cent. This result was in the top 1 per cent of all primary schools.

Some 40 per cent of these pupils went even further and reached the government's "greater depth" standard in reading, compared with a national average of 19 per cent.

These Year 2 children also excelled at writing with 88 per cent reaching the "expected" standard against a national average of 60 per cent. Again Bridekirk Dovenby was in the top 1 per cent of primary schools.

Some 16 per cent reached "greater depth" in writing, compared with a national average of 8 per cent.

At Key Stage 2, 89 per cent of our pupils reached the "expected" standard for reading, writing and maths combined.

The average was 60 per cent nationally, which put BDS in the top 2 per cent of all primary schools.

Some 19 per cent reached "greater depth" in reading, writing and maths combined, compared with a national average of 8 per cent.

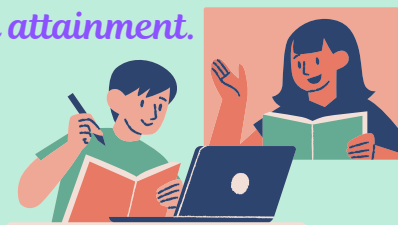
Children also showed themselves to be accomplished scientists with 100 per cent reaching the "expected" level at Key Stage 1 (national average 79 per cent) and 96 per cent reaching the "expected" standard at Key Stage 2 (national average 80 per cent).



As mentioned in our last newsletter, we are still waiting for Ofsted to carry out an inspection of our school. This could happen at any time. At our previous inspection in October 2011, Bridekirk Dovenby School was graded as Outstanding. Much has changed since then in the national climate; within the Ofsted framework and also at our school. Under the new framework, many 'outstanding' schools achieve a 'good' grading. All our staff work hard every day to provide the best education for our pupils regardless and hopefully when the inspectors do arrive, this will be recognised.

Attendance

Please continue to prioritise school attendance for your children wherever possible. Evidence shows that being in school support pupils with wellbeing, social interaction, friendships and attainment.



Update on SIAMS and our Christian vision



Thanks to Cat Kinghan

As well as Ofsted, Church of England and Methodist schools are subject to Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspections at least every eight years, which provides a unique method to scrutinise a school's culture. Our SIAMS inspection is due in the next academic year and will involve inspection of RE, collective worship, and spiritual, moral, social and cultural education.

The Church of England challenges and supports schools to grow and thrive and inspects how the faith element (or as we call it 'Christian values') drives a school's vision and provides an uplifting and holistic teaching and learning environment.

As governors, and in light of other inspection frameworks such as Ofsted, it's easy to become focused on results, compliance and finance and overlook other responsibilities. But that's precisely where SIAMS helps. It re-centres our governors and staff to look at the vision and culture of the school.

By examining our Christian values, SIAMS inspectors are privy to the inner details of the vision, mission and culture of a school and the pastoral welfare of its pupils. They therefore provide an independent verification of the pieces that sit behind process and policy.

Nearly 5,000 Church of England schools serve every type of community in every county. They are attended by close to one in four of the country's children, some 1 million at any one time. They are not 'faith' schools as they serve children from all and no religious backgrounds. However, they share in a vision to be 'deeply Christian, serving the common good'.

While a faith-based education may not be everyone's preference, there are clear lessons we can take from the way SIAMS evaluates a school. Indeed, by looking beyond just results, our schools and governing bodies can seek to further develop our provision and support our young people to thrive holistically in the world.

Extracts taken from:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/education-and-schools/church-schools-and-academies/siams-inspections>

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/why-weve-ditched-the-grades-from-siams-inspections/>

With all this in mind, we have been working on creating a theologically rooted Christian vision for Bridekirk Dovenby school and it is this:

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.

Psalms 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."



Enrichment of our curriculum

This year, as part of monitoring the curriculum, governors have been asking about enrichment and all the extra activities which add to our pupils rich and exciting education. The staff have worked together to map out these enrichment activities. This can be seen on the school website here:

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/bridekirkdovenbyceprimaryschool/UploadedDocument/663ecc01-85d5-4c0c-8183-7186e51579f2/enrichment-2024.pdf>

To help with planning and finances for families, governors are also working with staff to hopefully next year, give a termly overview of trips and activities which have a cost implication.

As a small school, providing and staffing a wide range of extra-curricular activities can be a challenge. Governors support schools' efforts in trying to provide different clubs and activities as this is an aspect of school life which is often mentioned in questionnaires from pupils and parents.

If there is anyone in our school community who would like to offer a skill to our pupils or has contacts within a local sports group or activity then please do get in touch. New ideas are very welcome!

SUMMER



We hope everyone is looking forward to the summer break.

School have recently sent out information about Cumbria's Holiday Activity and Food programme by email. Please do take a look at this for activities and support over the holidays.

<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-clothing-vouchers-and-activities/holiday-activities-and-food-haf-programme>



This term the Year 2 and Year 6 cohorts have taken their SATs test in school. Governors visited school to monitor and support the Year 6 tests to ensure they were carried out appropriately. What we observed were keen and well prepared children who were ready and enthusiastic to complete their tests. There were very few nerves in evidence and the well-deserved treats provided by the staff went down extremely well. Well done everyone!