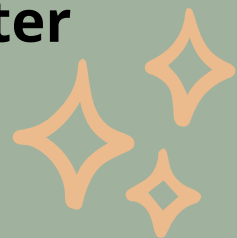




Governor Summer newsletter

July 2025



As we come to the end of another academic year, I would like to thank all of the staff, parents, carers and children who make Bridekirk Dovenby school such a special place to 'Work together, Aim high and Shine bright'. It's been a busy year all round with SIAM's and OFSTED inspections as well as all the class work, performances, extra curricular activities and clubs that go on each and every week.

This will also be my last term as Chair of governors. My term of office will come to an end in September and I will be stepping down. I have really enjoyed my 8 years helping school in this role and thanks to all of the staff and governor team for just being great!

Wishing everybody a very safe, fun and restful summer break!

Best wishes, Rose.

We currently have several vacancies on our board. Please get in touch if you or someone you know might be interested in either of the positions below...

You can speak to staff in school or email us: rose.downing@bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk (chair) or silvana@bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk (vice-chair) and we'll be very happy to have a chat and answer any questions.



We are recruiting!

Are you looking for a role where you can work independently from home? Trying to find a paid position which is part time and flexible?

Are you organised and have an interest in education?

If so, the governors of Bridekirk Dovenby Primary School are looking to appoint a:

Clerk to the Governing Board

This is a permanent position, approx. 3 hours per week in term time and includes attendance at governing body meetings.

To apply or for more information, just visit our school website

Parent governor

We also have a vacancy for a new parent governor coming up in the Autumn term.

Being a school governor is a fantastic way of getting involved in the life of your child's school. It does involve a time commitment for meetings (4 a year), occasional visits to school and online training but it is an extremely rewarding volunteer position.

If you would like to find out more, please just talk to staff in school or get in touch with us directly.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

We have been very lucky this year to have had several parent volunteers help us with maintenance work and odd jobs around school. We are really grateful for your time and expertise, it is a great help. Thank you!

A huge thank you to FOBDS who put so much time and effort into organising brilliant fundraising activities throughout the year. With some of these funds, staff are hoping to create some new learning spaces within school next year which many pupils will benefit from.

I would also like to thank parents and governors who have helped many of the trips and activities this year to take place including PE events and transportation for the after-school orienteering league. Also a special mention to Silvana Hewitt, who regularly meets with the Y6 Newshounds to create the Village Post articles which are always excellent!

Good luck year 6!

Everyone at Bridekirk Dovenby school would like to wish you the best of luck as you move on to your next adventures. We hope you continue to thrive and enjoy every new experience.

Greener Governance and Climate awareness

Silvana Hewitt has been spending time this year focussing on sustainability and completing a Climate ambassadors register for school. This will help us consider a variety of actions which could decrease our carbon footprint and raise awareness of ways we could all help the climate within school.

Working alongside school staff who have also completed training around this subject, she is helping to increase the profile of this subject and has accessed different resources which could be used.

Governors have been encouraged to look at ways school can include climate awareness throughout the curriculum



Spotlight on...Health & Safety.

On the governing board we have an allocated Health and Safety governor, Mr Philippe Kitchin. As part of this role, Philippe visits school on a termly basis to ensure that all of school's H&S responsibilities are being upheld. Often this includes ensuring all policies and procedures are in place and up to date, checking that any necessary works been completed and analysing accident/incident data. His observations will then be reported back to the governing board.

This term Cumberland Council have also carried out a H&S audit in school which we passed with flying colours. The audit showed a '*Substantial level of assurance*' which means '*there is a sound system of H&S controls in place to achieve H&S objectives and minimise risks.*'

Well done team!

One of our responsibilities as a governing board is to consider the strategic direction and priorities for the school. These come under 4 areas (shown below) and our focus is on achieving targets within these areas. Every year, progress is assessed and new targets drawn up. Below are some of the actions which have contributed during this year.

Quality of education and pupil achievement:

- Behaviour log reviewed regularly by governing body
- Attendance data reviewed regularly by governing body. School is following guidance from Cumberland council on attendance. Attendance continues to be above the national average.
- Curriculum offers are reviewed by the relevant committee. New schemes adopted for PE and RE. Many enrichment activities throughout the year which are inclusive. Costs are considered carefully.
- The outdoor areas are used effectively.

Finance and Infrastructure

- Extensive research into academisation has taken place. School leaders and governors met with the Good Shepherd Trust. This is not currently a consideration.
- Issues and ideas around parking availability ongoing, with involvement of various outside agencies. Meetings have been held with the Highways authority, local councillors, Cumbria H&S team and the local MP.
- The SBM has a greater knowledge of the assets of the school and provides regular financial reports to the board for scrutiny.
- The Governing Board have been consulted about SEND issues in relation to buildings. HT is making enquiries for further potential support.

Environment

- A working group with Mrs Fish, Mrs Beetham, 2 Governors and a teacher have been set up to lead on green initiatives. The school have adopted the Climate Ambassadors Register which is being completed.
- The audit to consider the school's carbon footprint is underway but no funding for an energy audit by an outside agency is available.
- Various steps in sustainable purchasing, energy efficiency, adaptation for climate and education for Green Skills and environmental awareness are taking place.

Community

- A termly newsletter is sent out to parents by the Chair of Governors.
- Governors are involved in school events such as trips, sports day, open days and ensure parents know who they are.
- Governors as Class Buddies get to know a particular class and follow their progress through school.
- Check the school website for compliance.
- A governor creates the school pages in the local magazine, involving Yr 6 "Newshounds". All families receive a free copy.
- Governors complete statutory training and access further online training in areas relating to their committee's work.
- Wellbeing is an item on agenda of all meetings. Governors consider staff workload before arranging monitoring meetings.

We would really like to get thoughts from parents, carers and the community too so if you have any ideas on the strategic direction school should take in the future then please do get in touch!