

Governor Newsletter Autumn Term 2021/22

Nicola Povey

As many of you know, Nicola Povey passed away last year. She had been a key member of our governing board for a number of years and is greatly missed. She joined us when her daughter, Katherine, started at Selsted and she brought with her a passion for education and knowledge of how schools work as she, herself, was a language teacher in a secondary school in Dover.

Whilst she was a consummate professional she also had a wonderful sense of humour. On the 26th of November, Bill (her husband) and Katherine joined governors and staff to plant a rowan tree in remembrance of Nicola and her time as a governor of our school.

The year ahead.....

The governing body has a range of duties and powers, and a general responsibility for the conduct of the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. This includes working with senior leaders to:

- set targets for pupil achievement
- manage the school's finances
- make sure the curriculum is balanced
- appoint senior staff
- review staff performance and pay
- decide how, in strategic terms, the school should be run.

We also look at how we develop ourselves strategically, undertaking skills audits and surveys to see what we feel are our strengths and areas for development.

This year's focus is to ready ourselves to support the school during our OFSTED and SIAMS (Church inspection) inspections, to nurture our newer governors and to develop new leaders as this is our Chair's last year in post.

Pick up and Drop off

After a somewhat enforced pilot scheme (thank you COVID) last year, we decided, as a leadership team, that the benefits of continuing with the current drop off and pick up format outweighed any downsides. Your children are safer, time spent dropping off and picking up is more efficient (under the old scheme it would take at least half an hour if you wanted a parking space and then it took forever to get out of the car park) and, most importantly, we have observed that children are ready for learning more quickly.

We must be mindful of our neighbours and community, though. We are aware it may be frustrating to have to wait in the queue, especially if you are a Swingfield parent whose drop off and pick up is in front of the school building, but driving round the queue or coming back out along Stockham Lane to the A260 is causing extra delay. Please help us to keep everything moving smoothly and to keep the potential for accidents to a minimum.

Celebrations

It is always lovely to be able to celebrate good news and we would like to offer congratulations to Miss Newton/Mrs Hills and Miss Grattan/Mrs Giles on their Christmas marriages and Miss Gatward on her impending new arrival.

Our Governing Board

- Jen Ibbetson- Revell – Chair of Governors and Co-Opted Governor
- Clare Blakemore – Vice Chair of Governors and Foundation Governor
- Angela Woodgate – Headteacher
- Janet Butcher-Weisner – Foundation Governor
- Suzy Ive – Chair of the Learning and Resource Committee and Staff Governor
- Kerry Lambillion – Parent Governor
- Cameron Langlands – Local Authority Governor
- Ann McNicholl – Chair of the Finance and Resource Committee and Co-opted Governor
- Emma Noakes – Parent Governor
- Clare Readman – Co-opted Governor

Our governing board is currently at capacity but we are always keen to hear from anyone who would like to offer their skills as an associate governor. Finance, health and safety, premises and legal skills are always welcome.