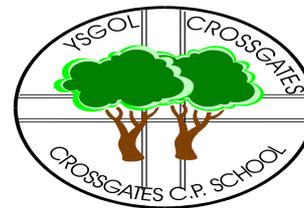


Governor Newsletter to parents and carers

Spring 2017



Welcome by the Chair

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this first governor newsletter to parents, which I hope you will find useful and informative. I have been a governor at Crossgates for more than 13 years, since my own children attended the school, and have seen the school grow and develop during this time. The role of a school governor has also seen huge changes over the years but at Crossgates we have always been fortunate to have a skilled and committed governing body who rise to these challenges. I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and it gives you a flavour of some of the things that we do. With best wishes,

Kathryn Griffiths

Who we are

The governing body comprises teachers, support staff, parents, local authority & community governors. You'll find photos of all the governors on the noticeboard in the school entrance hall and on the school website. Until last November Alf Jackaman was the Chair of the Governing Body. He had held this role for twelve years and we are very appreciative of the leadership he provided. We understood that after twelve years he felt it was time to hand this important role on to someone else and we were very pleased when Kathryn Griffiths accepted this position.

We have been fortunate to have Rev Andrew Perrin to join us as a Community Governor. Andrew has been regularly providing assemblies in school and is popular with children. We would also like to thank Kate Morgan for her work as a Governor, in particular as a representative on the Digital Wizards Group.

Anne Price (the School Secretary) is our Clerk to the Governors, her role is to provide advice and administrative support to the Governing Body and the committees, and to ensure we are behaving in a proper and constitutional way!

LA Representatives:

Mr John Powell (re-appointed Jul 16)

Mrs Kath Griffiths (re-appointed Jun 16) Chair

Mr Derek Price (re-appointed Aug 13)

Parent Governors:

Mr Brian Jardine (appointed Sep 13)

Mrs Claire Lewis (appointed Apr 14) Vice-Chair

Mr Adam Morton (appointed Apr 14)

Vacancy

Teacher Governor:

Mrs Verity Pritchard (appointed Jan 17)

Minor Authority Representative:

Vacancy

Governors Co-opted by GB:

Mr Alf Jackaman (re-appointed June 16)

Rev Andrew Perrin (appointed Nov 17)

Mr Andrew Morgan (re-appointed Nov 14)

Staff Governor:

Mrs Caroline Stokes (re-appointed Feb 14)

Head teacher:

Mrs Lisa Williams (appointed Sept 15)

Parent Governor Vacancy

Crossgates governing body would like to appoint a new parent governor. There is no requirement for education expertise. What you do need is an interest in your child's education and some time, energy and enthusiasm! Being a governor can be a really rewarding experience and there is a range of free training available. If you think you may be interested in this role please look out for election details early next term.

What Governors do

The Full Governing Body meets six times a year. In addition to this, three sub-committees meet and each has a particular focus on different areas of school life:

1. Community and Environmental.
2. Data and Curriculum.
3. Finance and Resources.

Much of the work is now done in these committees, and each one will meet once or twice per term. In addition to these meetings, some of us also fulfil statutory roles which oversee different aspects of school life, e.g. Safeguarding, Health and Safety.

As Governors, we are volunteers who help to run the school. Our role is mainly to help shape the strategic direction and priorities of the school, and help drive these forward. This year our priorities are the six recommendations within the Estyn report.

A Post Inspection Action Plan has been drawn up and lots of things are happening in school to implement this. Children will soon be learning from a new curriculum written by Cornerstones Education. Each topic has a 'Big Start' such as a trip or visitor to the school. This is to get the children's imagination going. As an example Year 6 have been given a budget and are currently organising a trip to Cardiff. Crossgates is now signed up to the Cymraeg Campus Language Charter, and are working towards the first target of the Bronze award. This is a program to specifically develop Welsh in English medium schools. There is a notice board in school to monitor progress.

Book Scrutiny

There is an increasing responsibility to observe and monitor pupil development and attainment first hand. As part of the work of the Data and Curriculum committee, governors visit school for book scrutiny, learning walks, wall trawls and listening to learners.

As part of our accountability to you as parents we wanted to provide feedback of the recent book scrutiny undertaken when a sample of literacy, maths, problem solving and science books were looked at across all year groups and abilities. This is a valuable way of building a picture of progress and checking the school's approach in the classroom and across the whole school. Those who carry out the scrutiny use a pro-forma document which records governor judgement based on the traffic light system. Consideration was given on whether work was dated, marked and in line with marking policy. Governors also looked for evidence of progression and differentiation, learning objectives,

success criteria, peer/self-assessment and responses to marking by pupils. If necessary members of the Data group looked at other pupils books to help each governor make their judgement. All comments and any targets were fed back to the teaching staff.

How you can help

- **Regular attendance:** One of the main indicators that Estyn compare is our attendance statistic against similar schools. Regular attendance and punctuality are considered very important– not only does it help our pupils to build and strengthen firm relationships with their peers and members of staff it is also a proven factor in better attainment. 95% attendance sounds good but means your child is taking one day off per month. Please support the school in achieving our 96% attendance target this year.
- **Volunteers:** The school is keen for volunteers willing to go into school to listen to learners read, or Welsh speakers so that pupils can practice their Welsh. Also, anyone prepared to talk to pupils about their business, as part of a planned Enterprise week during the summer term.
- **Pre-school aged pupils:** If you have a pre-school aged child or know of one that hopes to attend Crossgates, as part of budget forward planning, it would be helpful if you could let the office know. Please note this is in addition to the Powys County Council admission process.

Communication and Feedback

Do remember that the governing body will be pleased to hear from you about any aspects of the school you feel need bringing to our attention. We can be contacted through the school office. Letters to the governing body should be addressed to the Chair – Kathryn Griffiths, (Email: kathryng@crossgates.powys.sch.uk) but feel free to give comments or suggestions to the parent governors. Whilst governors will always welcome and value your comments, all initial concerns, issues or complaints relating to the day to day running of the school, should always in the first instance be referred to your child's class teacher. Thereafter, if any issues remain unresolved, you should contact the Head Teacher.

On a lighter note, recently one of our LA Governors, Derek Price joined the Yrs 5 & 6 tag rugby team at a festival held at Llandrindod Rugby Club. Crossgates put in an impressive performance to make the final against Trefonnen School. Congratulations to all involved.

Very many thanks to our all hardworking staff and pupils. Happy Easter everyone.