

What have we done this half term?

- Received the Learning Improvement Plan from Mrs Kelly and Mrs Forshaw.
- Policies, procedures and risk assessments have been reviewed and ratified, which will be ongoing throughout the academic year.
- Governors Skills Audit
- New governing board structure
- Safeguarding monitoring
- Health and Safety Monitoring
- Staff pay and appraisal monitoring
- New subscription to the NGA's Training & Development programme
- New 'Governors Section' on the school website

GOVERNOR NEWS



YOUR HALF TERMLY GUIDE TO GOVERNANCE

OCTOBER / ISSUE 1 / 2020

Welcome to our first Governors'

Newsletter

As we approach the end of the first half of the Autumn Term, we reflect on what has been another busy and fulfilling 7 weeks.

We had the pleasure to support the school staff with gate duty and sign posting parents to ensure a smooth drop off and collection for the first week back in September. It was wonderful to see all the children again and welcome both existing and new children we hadn't yet had the pleasure to meet.



Visible Governance in schools is of utmost importance and we are committed to working in partnership with the staff, children, parents and carers to retain stakeholder confidence. We want you, to get to know who we are, what we do and have confidence in our ability to provide strong overall strategic leadership, which leads to robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance.

We aim to provide the right balance of challenge and support to Mrs Kelly, Mrs Forshaw and their team with the wider scope of being a critical friend, having shared value and purpose, which will ensure our school continues to provide the highest level of education for our children. Our strong partnership will enable the school to achieve the highest standards of teaching and

learning for the benefit of all pupils and staff.



#AllForOneandOneForAll

VISION

One of the three core functions of governance is to 'Ensure clarity of vision'

As a school community we shared our ideas, discussed our hopes and dreams and together take ownership of the future we build for and with our children.

*"New Beginnings,
Endless Possibilities"*

As each new day begins - endless possibilities lie before us - to be the very best that we can be through hard work, commitment, dedication and aspiration.

Our aim is to embed the vision in the work of the governing board. We use our Learning Improvement Plan as a tool to help support our school to achieving its vision. Our vision is the overarching goal that everything else should feed into.

Who are your school governors?

Despite the fact you've only seen us in High-Viz vests so far and our Vice Chair of Governors getting mistaken for the school coach driver, we have an extremely active and dedicated Governing Board at Arley, who work effectively and dynamically as part of a team, towards a common purpose; providing the best outcomes for our children.

Our governing board consists of an extensive range of skills, together with diversity of experience, backgrounds, characteristics, and perspectives to ensure maximum effectiveness.

Our current governors are:

Mrs Lexie Gardner: Chair of Governors (Parent Governor)

Mr Gary Green: Vice Chair of Governors (Local Authority - appointed by the LA)

Mrs L Kelly: Headteacher

Mrs Roberta Narroway MBE: Co-opted Governor

Mr Eric Fellows: Co-opted Governor

Ms Jodie Gosling: Parent Governor

Mrs Hilary Power: Co-opted Governor

Mrs Janice Steane: Co-opted Governor

Congratulations to Mr Gary Green who is our Vice Chair of Governors and also our newly appointed Local Authority Governor, following a successful application, which was ratified by Councillor Hayfield. The Local Authority has a stake in the success of our school and appoints governors who are able and willing to work as members of the full governing board to secure the best possible education for children at the school. He has previously held seven years of office as Chairman of the Parish Council, which has provided him with the opportunity to represent the community within a key role. As an experienced Managing Director, Mr Green also leads our Finance Committee,

which has gained the recognition and praises from School Finance at the Local Authority.

Mrs Roberta Narroway MBE joined the board at the start of the year but due to school closures in March has not yet had the opportunity to meet many of you. Recently retired as a headteacher of a large primary school, she has a wealth of knowledge, with over 40 years' experience. In recognition of that, she was named in the Queen's Birthday Honours and was awarded an MBE for her service to Primary Education. Mrs Narroway leads our Education, Standards and Safeguarding Committee and we are delighted to have someone of her calibre join our board.

Mrs Riley's role as Staff Governor has now come to an end, which has created a vacancy for another member of staff to be elected for this exciting and immensely rewarding role. All staff employed by school will be encouraged to stand as candidates, as teachers and members of the support staff of the school have particular knowledge, experience and views to bring to the governing body and can help increase all governors' understanding of the school.

We will update you further when the successful election has taken place over the coming weeks.

Learning Improvement Plan

This is a document that sets out all the actions that will drive our school's improvement against our schools' objectives over time. It focuses on significant strategic challenges facing our school and our role is to monitor the improvement at all levels.

Education, Standards and Safeguarding Committee

Pupils' learning is at the heart of the school's priorities and the committee have been working in recent weeks to ensure the school successfully provide and implement a robust Covid-19 Catch-up programme, embed our BRAND NEW balanced and broad-based curriculum to include PHSE.

Setting up a monitoring programme of the Standards, Attendance, Pupil Premium, Sports Premium, Policies and provision for children with special educational needs (SEN), whilst upholding a robust culture of safeguarding throughout the school community.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee are responsible for monitoring and planning for the school's financial position and control systems. In addition to committee meetings, every half term we meet with our School Finance Officer from Warwickshire to go through the budget as its role is key to ensure that the governing board discharges its financial responsibilities correctly and that the school remains financially viable at all times, whilst ensuring value for money with the public purse

As our three to five-year plan evolves, we are looking to strengthen our position by being creative with income funding streams to enhance the children's learning experiences and resources available.

On 1st October the statutory School Census for the Autumn Term was completed and submitted successfully. This is undertaken to determine the schools funding allocations

for the following financial year's budget so thank you for your support with attendance and participation in the uptake of school meals as this does make such a valued difference to the budget for our school.

Well-being Committee

This is a newly established committee in order for governors to ensure pupil and staff wellbeing is recognised as being a vital element of school life. Our strategic role is to support in ensuring the school embed its mental health and wellbeing provision across the entire school, which are reflected in the curriculum and activities. A Pupil Well-being Survey was commissioned this week as part of aiming to improve well-being, which once analysed, and findings reviewed, will help support and form policies and strategies based on the needs and suggestions of the pupils, enabling practice to be more effective. In turn the pupils will directly benefit.

School Policies

School policies cover every aspect of school life. One of the key elements of governor's strategic role is to agree statutory school policies, a significant aspect of our monitoring, is to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of those policies. To do this, we work to a policy review cycle, so each policy is reviewed during a designated term of the academic year, which we have underway. All of our school policies can be located on the school website should you wish to explore these further.

Governors Training

Arley Primary School plays a vital role within the community and it deserves the best of skills, perspective, and leadership that the board has to offer. We undertake training as members to make an important investment in our leadership, we value governance education and take our duties seriously, which in turn has a direct impact on the school.

The governing board subscribes to the

National Governance Association's Training & Development programme. All with CPD accreditation and certificate of achievement.

If anyone would like to consider becoming a governor in the future, in addition to contacting the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors, the NGA's website has a wealth of information about school governance.



Website

The website contains a great deal of useful information for parents and is really worth a visit. We have recently updated our governance section, which now explains the purpose of governance and how we operate strategically. It also includes the new structure to the board and the roles and responsibilities each member holds. A huge Thank You to Mr Matt Rogers for all his hard work and support in doing this!

Fund Raising

Fund raising is still a very important task, however due to Covid-19 restrictions Friends of Arley are currently unable to have its usual activities, therefore we are looking at external sources to submit applications and proposals. We would love to purchase more books, renovate the Library and further develop the Early Years outdoor area.

Governors have sent home a cup-cake with the children to mark the end of a successful half term.

We join Mrs Kelly and Mrs Forshew and echo what they have said about the children... 'They have been truly amazing and an absolute credit to you!'

Another huge Thank You to Tracey Ball who owns Lou Lou & Lizzie Cake Artistry for baking all these cakes.



And Finally...

Have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to updating you on our work in Issue No 2 next term.