

For more information about the work of the Governing Body, please visit the Governors page on the [school website](#).

If you would like to speak to the Chair of Governors please email chair@staplefordprimaryschool.org or ask at the School Office.



Stapleford Community Primary School

Governors' Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018/19

Dear friends,

We are pleased to share with you some of the work that your Local Governing Body and Anglian Learning have been doing this term. We would also like to ask for your help in volunteering for two important projects – reading in school and replacing the Moat bridge.

Thank you to our staff

Governors held a mince pie party to thank all of our leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, OOSC staff and non-teaching staff for their hard work in making this term so exciting for all the children and wish them a well-earned Christmas break. Several governors then stayed to watch the KS2 Christmas concert and would like to congratulate pupils (and parents!) on their wonderful costumes and performances.

Thank you to the PTA

A special thank you to our PTA committee, parent body and local community for supporting the school with another term of fun and fundraising, including the fantastic Christmas Gift Fair. We are very grateful for the support you give the school.

Reading volunteers

Stapleford has a long history of excellence in reading, and teachers would like to ensure that pupils in KS1 and KS2 continue to have regular opportunities to read aloud to an adult across the week.

Governors are keen to encourage reading volunteers among the parent body and the wider community for hearing children read. If you know anyone who might be interested in hearing children read on a regular basis, please encourage them to get in touch with the school office. As per our volunteer policy, the school office will arrange a DBS check for all potential volunteers.

Nursery project

The school's project to establish a new nursery at the school is underway, led by Deputy Headteacher Jayne Hore, with support from Christine Spain, Anglian Learning and the Local Authority. Plans for converting the empty classrooms in the KS1 building into nursery rooms have been drawn up by the Local Authority and are being finalized, so the work can go out to tender. This building work will be funded by Section 106 funding for pre-school provision in Stapleford, provided by the developers of the recent housing developments on either side of London Road. This funding can only be used to

expand pre-school provision. In the coming weeks, Mrs Hore will circulate a draft consultation paper to all parents and other stakeholders, requesting your views on lowering the intake age of our school from four to two.

Request for help and funding

The governors agree that while nursery building work is being carried out, it would be beneficial to upgrade other KS1 learning areas at the same time – to provide decking for the Reception class outdoor learning area, and to create a door providing access to a dedicated outdoor learning area for the Year 1 classroom.

If any parents are aware of grants that the school may be able to apply for or are able to access employer funding for community projects, please get in touch with Mrs Hore. The bridge over Moat also urgently needs replacing if children in all year groups are to continue using the woodland area in 2019. Parent volunteers are urgently needed to help coordinate this project – please get in touch with Mrs Spain.

School performance

In the last newsletter we summarized the assessment results for the 2017/18 school year, with particularly strong results in Reading at KS2, in Phonics and across all core areas at KS1. A visual summary of the KS2 assessment results has recently been published on the government website at: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk>

This term, the local governing body analysed and discussed the full assessment data, celebrated the school's successes and discussed the school improvement priorities which were developed by Mrs Spain along with Prue Rayner, Executive Headteacher for the Anglian Learning Primary Hub. While Maths results are in line with the national average, Maths remains a focus for the school, reflected in training priorities and initiatives. Attainment for disadvantaged children and children with special educational needs (SEN) also remains a key focus for the school. Our SEND link governor carried out a visit to the school this term and gave a report of her visit to the Local Governing Body in December.

This term, governors have also carried out monitoring visits focused on staff induction, health and safety and finance. Our governor with responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection also attended the E-safety event on 19 November and was pleased to see so many parents at this excellent event.

SEN funding

Last term, headteachers and Local Governing Body representatives from schools in our local cluster met with Heidi Allen MP to discuss the growing crisis in funding in the county for special educational needs (SEN) (Governor Newsletter, Summer Term 2018). Mrs Spain has written again to Heidi Allen during the Autumn term, to keep up the pressure for action. In November, Jonathan Culpin, Chief Executive Officer of Anglian Learning, attended a consultation meeting organized by Cambridgeshire Local Authority (LA) to discuss SEN funding. Mr Culpin has since written to Heidi Allen to raise concerns about the scale of the funding deficit, and to ask for her urgent support in raising the issue of SEN funding in Cambridgeshire with the Department for Education and to seek emergency funding to enable the LA to cover the costs for SEN for the next twelve months, as well as discussing with Ministers a longer term solution to making sure that funding reflects needs.

Governor appointments

This term we say farewell to Rachel Hudson, who has spent more than seven years supporting Stapleford as a parent and Trust governor, serving as Chair of our Performance & Standards Committee and as Vice-Chair of Governors. We are enormously grateful to Rachel for the key role she has played in providing challenge and support during a period of great change.

We welcomed new Trust Governor Jo Robinson, who brings a wealth of experience in education. We also welcomed new parent governors Sanjay Mistry and Martin Brown. Sanjay is a former Deputy Headteacher of a large local primary school and now works for Cambridge Assessment. Sanjay has also served on the governing body of Sawston Village College. Martin works at Astra Zeneca and brings finance and monitoring skills to the governing body.

We also welcomed our new staff governor Ashley Wagstaff. Staff governors are elected by staff at the school and operate as equal members of the governing board to provide strategic leadership and to help the board carry out its statutory duties.

At the start of the school year, Isabel Thomas stepped down as Chair in order to join the Faculty of Education in Cambridge and was succeeded by Paul Izzett.

The local governing body at Stapleford helps our parent trust Anglian Learning to oversee the management side of school life. We help our school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders in areas such as strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. Our most important role is to ensure the welfare and excellent education of all the children at Stapleford.

Your governors are often in school, so please do come and say hello when you see us.