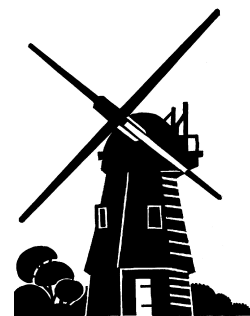


For more information about the work of the Governing Body, please visit the Governors page on the [school website](#).

If you would like to speak to the Chair of Governors please email [office@staplefordprimaryschool.org](mailto:office@staplefordprimaryschool.org) or ask at the School Office.



# Stapleford Community Primary School

## Governors' Newsletter

January 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

**Welcome to our first Governors' Newsletter of 2020 in which we are pleased to share with you some of the work that the Governing Body has been doing over the first part of this academic year, 2019/20.**

### **Governing Body**

This year there have been some changes to our Governing Body. Isabel Thomas left after serving for almost six years as a Governor and Chair. All the Governors would like to thank Isabel for her dedication and hard work. We have welcomed two new Governors, Surabhi Khanna (Trust Governor) and Mike Byrne (Parent Governor). Paul Izzett was re-elected Chair with Kate Jessop and Francesca Crawley as Vice Chairs.

### **Governor Visits**

The Governors had a busy Autumn Term, with three full governing body meetings and several smaller committee meetings. Visits have also been made by governors responsible for individual aspects of the school. Last term these were SEND (special educational needs and disabilities), SMSC

(spiritual, moral, cultural, social), English and Maths. During these visits governors discussed progress with the member of staff responsible for that area, noted where further progress was needed and observed pupils in the classroom. A visit focusing on Health and Safety was also made and areas of improvement needed, such as external paintwork, noted.

Safeguarding continues to be a strong focus of governors' work as we strive to maintain the highest standards of safety for all our children. Last term the named Safeguarding Governor and our Executive Head Teacher from Anglian Learning made a detailed check that all the correct procedures are in place to ensure this. Interviews were carried out with staff members to ensure that they have a good knowledge of Safeguarding protocols. All governors

receive Safeguarding training yearly and are aware they need to be alert to any possible issues seen during their visits.

Governors are involved in the school in a more informal way. This has involved attending assemblies, joining in an open afternoon, attending PTA events and watching concerts. A particular highlight was the Infants' Nativity. Staff had worked exceptionally hard to produce a very entertaining performance in which every word could be heard!

KS2 Christmas Concert in St Andrew's Church was equally enjoyable. We were treated to some beautiful singing of a mix of modern and traditional carols, and readings delivered with expression and clarity. The Governors would like to thank the members of the local community who made this event possible.

### **Monitoring Progress**

At the beginning of the Autumn Term the governors reviewed performance data and, with the Head Teacher, discussed the priorities and plans for the coming year. The Governors were pleased to note progress already made and that, although there are still areas where improvement is needed, the school sets itself high standards and works hard to achieve them.

### **Staffing**

The Governors would like to thank Mrs Spain and all the staff for their hard work last term. It has been of benefit to the school that there has been no need for any new teachers this year. We would also like to thank staff for their cooperation during Governor visits, both in the giving of their time and sharing documentation. Being able to talk openly and honestly enables Governors to have the best possible knowledge of their particular area and informs their report

to the full Governing Body. We were able to thank staff in a small way by sharing some Christmas goodies just before the end of term.

### **The PTA**

The Governors would like to thank the PTA for their hard work in fund raising which is invaluable to the school. The Winter Eco Fair was a great success giving children the opportunity to participate in activities, the adults an opportunity to buy some unusual gifts and everyone to become a little more ecologically aware. The café was also clearly very much appreciated!

### **Anglian Learning**

We have continued to benefit from being part of Anglian Learning Trust. Our Executive Head Teacher, Prue Rayner, provides support and advice and our links with Fen Ditton and Bottisham Primary Schools enable us to share expertise and ideas. Several more primary schools will be joining the Trust this year. A

recent big development has been the introduction of a Trust Intranet. This provides a platform for us to access a huge amount of useful information and keep up to date with developments in our schools, the Trust and education nationwide.

### **The Nursery**

It has been very exciting to see the Nursery taking shape and, therefore, hugely disappointing when, through no fault of our own, we were unable to open as planned in January. The Governors now look forward to welcoming this new and very exciting addition to the School in February.

### **Minutes of Meetings**

This newsletter only gives a very brief overview of the work of the Governors. If you would like more detailed information it can be found in the minutes of our meetings. These are on the School website – go first to 'Community' and then click on 'Governors'.