

# Market Harborough C of E Primary School

# Governor Newsletter



No. 2 April 2011

Welcome to this term's Governor Newsletter. There have been a number of changes on the Governing Body recently, and this edition will update you about them. Last term's newsletter focussed on explaining the formal roles and responsibilities of Governors; this edition contains information about how Governors are involved in the life of the school in less formal ways. We hope you will find this information useful and interesting.

First, however, we would like to let you know that, after considering in depth the pros and cons of seeking to convert our school to Academy status, the Governing Body has decided unanimously that, at present, it is not in the best interests of the school, the children, the staff or other stakeholders for us to pursue conversion to Academy status. We wish to thank our Associate Member, Ian Clarkson, for the balanced, detailed and well-researched presentation he made at our most recent meeting, which helped us to reach this decision.

## Update: the Governing Body at a glance

In December, Ian Clarkson stepped down from the Governing Body after almost 25 years as a Governor at this school. We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Ian for all he has done for the school over this time. Ian's retirement does not mark the end of his involvement with the school, however, for he has accepted our invitation to become an Associate Member of the Governing Body. This means we can continue to draw on his experience and expertise when necessary. In addition, three new Governors have recently been appointed: Carolyn Booth, Julie Johnson and Sally Kirke. We welcome them all. Their appointment means the Governing Body now has a full complement of Governors in place. An updated list of its members and their additional nominated roles is given below.

### The school's Governing Body is made up of different types of Governor:

- **Foundation** nominated by the Parochial Church Council and appointed by the Diocese
- **LA** appointed by the Local Authority
- **Parent** elected by parents and carers of pupils at the school
- **Community** elected by the Governing Body
- **Staff** elected by the school's staff
- **Headteacher** automatic membership
- **Associate Member** elected by the Governing Body

Name	Category
Carolyn Booth	Staff
Craig Bosworth	LA
Sue Bovill	Headteacher
The Revd Richard Brand	Foundation
Ian Clarkson	Associate Member
Sue Dove	Parent
Julie Johnson	Foundation
Sally Kirke	Parent
Rachel Morley (Vice Chair)	Parent
Heidi Newman	Parent
Jane Snelling	Community
Richard Whitehouse	Community
Joan Williams (Chair)	Foundation

**Community Cohesion** – Craig Bosworth  
**Governor Training** – Rachel Morley  
**Improving Schools Programme** – Richard Whitehouse  
**Numeracy** – Sally Kirke  
**Racist Incidents** – Jane Snelling  
**SEN** – Joan Williams

**Gifted & Talented** – Sue Dove  
**Health & Safety** – Jane Snelling  
**Literacy** – Rachel Morley  
**PTA Liaison** – Rachel Morley  
**Safeguarding** – Joan Williams

## Governors' informal visits to school

This term has seen the start of a new initiative that links each Governor to a year group, as follows:

**Year 6:** Joan Williams

**Year 5:** Richard Brand and Julie Johnson

**Year 4:** Sally Kirke and Richard Whitehouse

**Year 3:** Craig Bosworth and Rachel Morley

**Year 2:** Carolyn Booth and Heidi Newman

**Year 1:** Sue Dove

**Foundation Stage:** Jane Snelling

Governors will remain with these groups of children throughout the children's time at the school, starting again at Foundation Stage when their cohort leaves at the end of Year 6. Governors will visit their year groups informally at least once a term and will accompany them on trips whenever possible. These informal visits are in addition to the Governing Body's annual programme of formal monitoring visits. It is hoped they will provide Governors with more opportunities to become involved in the life of the school, and will enable them to get to know children and staff and to develop strong relationships with them. They will also give children a chance to talk to Governors and to find out about why they are in school and what they do.

Some Governors have already made their first visits to their year groups and would like to share their impressions with you.

**Jane Snelling:** 'I spent the morning of Tuesday 8th February with Foundation Stage children. We listened to the story of Mr Gumpy and I joined the children who were acting this out with a boat and characters. I was delighted to see lots of children taking up the option to have fruit with their milk at break time. We then went to the hall to use the PE equipment where the children were encouraged to find their own, different way of using the equipment and demonstrate it to the others. I think the staff should be applauded for their kind but firm reinforcement of good manners and behaviour and for encouraging children to be competent at organising their personal belongings. I was made to feel very welcome by both staff and pupils and hope to visit them again shortly.'

**Sally Kirke:** 'On 17th February I visited Harborough Museum with 4MA. We had an interesting talk from a member of the Museum Team who showed us old pictures of Harborough town centre and explained how the markets were run in the square and at the other end of town in years gone by. The children recognised many of the shop fronts that remain and could see the differences between 'then' and 'now'. We did a quiz which led us round some of the main exhibits in the museum and looked at lots of old artefacts, guessing which ones from the past did the jobs that machines and technology now do. The

children were also able to try on old-fashioned clothes. The photos are worth seeing! The children behaved impeccably at all times; they were a credit to Mrs Arthur and the school. Well done!'

**Heidi Newman:** 'I visited Year 2 in February. I was given a guided tour of the six 'faith stops' by 8 pupils from 2HM and Mrs Snelson, their LSA. I was very impressed by the children's enthusiasm, by their understanding of the key features of the different faiths represented and by how friendly and welcoming they were. I also spent some time sewing with children from 2HM and 2EF who were making cross stitch pictures with the help of four parent volunteers.'

**Rachel Morley:** 'On a sunny afternoon in March, I joined 3HS on a field trip to the River Welland. The visit was linked to the class's topic work on rivers, and the children had a set of questions to answer during the walk. We looked for signs of erosion and deposition, noted evidence of flood control, spotted wildlife and their homes, looked for any pollution and considered its source. The children were enthusiastic and engaged throughout the trip, and they made lots of interesting comments and observations. Their behaviour was impeccable and they walked through town very sensibly and carefully. Thank you, 3HS, for inviting me to join you.'

This term, Governors have also attended the PTA and Fairtrade Afternoon Tea, the Fairtrade 'make some bunting' day, the 'wrapping up' of the Old Grammar School and the PTA Quiz Night. They have both participated in and supported the school's teams at the recent Rotary Club SwiMarathon, and watched the fantastic production put on by Years 3 and 4. They have also accompanied children on the following trips: visit to the Farmers' Market (Year 4); history walk round town (Year 4); 'more able' writer's day (Year 6).

## How to contact us

If you have any ideas for how we can improve the Governor Newsletter, please let us know. To contact the Governing Body about this or any other matter, please write to: The Chair of the Governing Body, c/o The School Office, Market Harborough C of E Primary School, Fairfield Road, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9QH.