



Governors Newsletter

Issue 1 – Spring 2015

Chair's Word

I'm delighted to bring you our first Governors Newsletter. It is an aim of our school's Governing Body to improve communication and links between governors, staff, parents and children. Hopefully this newsletter will meet part of this aim. We plan to share with you who the governors are and what we do. We're all from different backgrounds and have many different interests but what unites us is the desire to make sure children of Cromford have the best school experience we can provide. We know Cromford is a good school (we are very proud of our recent Church inspection which rated us a good school) but we can always improve and we are keen to know your comments and ideas. You can get in touch with us via school office, by calling or leaving a note for us. Education is about teamwork; staff, parents, children and governors working together to ensure our children get the best possible education in a supportive, caring school.

Lynne Dunsmore

What do governors do?

Governors are a group of volunteers who include parents, staff and members of our local community. The school governors are here to ensure Cromford School is well run. We help decide on the direction, focus, aims and values of the school. We help the headteacher and staff plan the school's long term direction and we evaluate progress. Many of our responsibilities carry a statutory requirement. This means we are obliged by law to do things such as agree the annual budget, review school policies which you can view on the school's website, set and assess performance and absence targets, organise some staff recruitment (such as the head). The school governors lead but do not manage the school. The job of day to day management is the responsibility of the headteacher.

Some of the things we've been working on this term

- The school has been working on introducing the new curriculum. As governors we receive reports from the headteacher and ensure that everything is in place.
- We monitor the School Improvement Plan, which is the document that is put together by staff and governors each year and shows the focus for improvement. By doing this we ensure that the children receive the best possible education.
- We are monitoring our collaboration with Monyash school which is in place until the end of the Summer term.

There are different types of governors

Parent Governors: They are parents of children currently at school and are elected by you.

Foundation Governors: The vicar of St Mary's Cromford is automatically appointed as governor. The other Foundation governors are elected by the Diocese. Foundation governors focus on the spiritual life of the school.

Local Authority Governors: They are elected by the local authority and are chosen for their skills.

Community Governors: These governors are elected by the other governors to reflect our community.

Staff Governors: They are elected by all staff to represent them.

Associate Governors: They are elected by the Governing Body for their particular skills and although they don't have voting rights, bring expertise and knowledge to the group.

Currently we have 15 governors including the headteacher. Each governor's term of office is 4 years.

From September 2015 there will be changes to the constitution of the Governing Body. We will inform you of these in our next letter.

Who Are We?



Lynne Dunsmore, Local Authority Governor, Chair of the Governing Body - attends all committees
I live in Holloway with my husband Ian. My hobbies are walking and gardening. Before moving to Derbyshire, I lived and taught in Bedfordshire and Luton for 30 years. Alongside being a governor, I work as a volunteer in school 1 day a week, listening to reading. I love working with young children, watching them grow in confidence and ability. I am very proud of our school community.

Daniele Whitaker, Local Authority Governor, Vice-Chair of the Governing Body - attends all committees
I live in Cromford. I am secondary trained (I used to teach at Highfields). I have been on the board of Governors for several years and I have learnt a lot about what makes a good primary school which I believe Cromford School is. My personal interests are modern foreign languages, travelling, reading and badminton. I also volunteer in school once a week, listening to reading.



Liz Foster, Headteacher - attends all committees

I'm proud to be the Headteacher at Cromford School. I moved to Derbyshire in 2010, with my husband and daughter, having previously lived and taught in Hertfordshire for 17 years. I enjoy living in this area and having the opportunity to work in a school which benefits from such great support.

David Hetherington, Community Governor - Resources Committee (Chair)

I have lived in Cromford for over 20 years. I had a long career in teaching and education. Since my retirement, I mainly help and entertain my 4 grand-children who have attended, attend and will be attending Cromford School. I can often be found coaching the children at Cromford Cricket Club and watching Manchester City in the Boat.



Isabelle Chatfield, Associate Governor - Teaching & Learning (Chair) and Publicity Committees

I have 2 children who both attended Cromford School. My background is in IT and management consultancy. I'm French and have been living in the UK for 18 years (the last 5 in Cromford). For the governors, I write the school news for the Millpond Parish newsletter and organise this newsletter. I'm also the Anti-bullying governor.

Julie Taylor, Foundation Governor - Publicity (Chair) and Resources Committees

I live in Cromford and my 3 children all attended Cromford School. For the last 8 years, I have been mid-day supervisor at school. I joined the governors 6 ½ years ago. I also run the Cromford Rainbows.



Rev. Nick Grayshon, Foundation Governor - Resources Committee

I moved from being Vicar of St. Andrew's Radcliffe, Manchester and governor of the Church school to be Vicar of Holy Trinity Matlock Bath and St. Mary's Cromford in 2008. What a fantastic place to live and work! One of the joys of my work is as governor of 2 wonderful Primary Schools, Cromford and Holy Trinity Matlock Bath. Amongst all the regulations and Government 'interference' the children remain at the centre of the governors' work and responsibilities.

Michael Ledger, Foundation Governor - Teaching & Learning Committee

After teaching in primary schools in Warwickshire for 25 years I moved to Cromford in 2003. I have to confess that I knew nothing of the history of the village until coming to work for the Arkwright Society. Currently I am education Officer at Cromford Mill with the task of developing our educational provision for learners from Reception through to university.



Nigel Fletcher, Junior Class Teacher, Staff Governor - Teaching & Learning Committee

I live the other side of Chesterfield and was appointed to teach at Cromford School just over two years ago. I have enjoyed working there ever since. I believe that a school should have good relationships with both the parents/carers and the local community and I will always strive to ensure that I am an effective partner in that relationship. Outside of school my main interest lies in music and I play trombone in a local brass band.

Maggie Martin, Local Authority Governor - Resources and Teaching & Learning Committees

I have lived in Cromford for 34 years and have been a Governor at Cromford School for 19 years. I am now retired but previously worked for Derbyshire County Council. My personal interests are walking, reading, cinema and gardening. I believe that Cromford School has a special place at the heart of the community and although it has been through some challenging times in the past, it has now become a school for the village to be proud of.



Sally Wright, Parent Governor - Resources Committee

I live in Cromford and have two children at Cromford School, Roxy and Kitty. I am passionate about education and have been a teacher for 14 years. I am the Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding and Early Years.

Nicola Paine, Parent Governor - Teaching & Learning and Publicity Committees

I live in Cromford with my husband Kevin & our two boys. I work at Cromford Playgroup. Both of my boys attended Cromford School and one is still there! I am very proud to be part of Cromford School and what it offers to children on a daily basis.



Glyn Knighton, Parent Governor - Resources Committee

I grew up in Cromford and went to Cromford Primary School myself. I now have 3 children of my own, 2 of them attend Cromford Primary School and the youngest attends Cromford Playgroup. I enjoy spending time with my family and going for walks around the village, going to the gym. I became a parent governor because I wanted to get more involved with a school I'm proud of.

Rebecca Harrison, Parent Governor - Teaching & Learning Committee

I have been married for 6 and half years and have two boys who both attend Cromford School. I have been working in the NHS for 3 years in administration. My interests are reading, walking and spending time with family and friends.



Julie Hamilton, Clerk to the Governors

My role as Clerk is to make sure that governors receive all relevant papers for meetings, and take notes at Full Governors meetings. I have been the Clerk since 2008. I am also the School Secretary at Cromford. I live in Bonsall with my husband, Alistair and two sons, Jack and Dominic. We moved to Bonsall from West Sussex 7 years ago.