



Governors Newsletter

Issue 3 – Winter 2015/2016

Chair's Word

In this new school year, we welcome many new parents with another large intake of children in the Reception class. We also welcome 4 new governors who we introduce in this newsletter. We have an excellent team of governors who give up their time freely and regularly to support the school in every way they can.

We're delighted with the work in the playground and thank Liz Foster, Lynne Dunsmore, our ex chair of Governors and Julie Hamilton for all their hard work securing the grant and organising the work. It's a wonderful addition to our school. I'm also very pleased to announce that we've just secured some additional funding from the Local Authority towards a more substantial shelter which will complete beautifully our outdoor space.

I have been a governor at Cromford school for several years. I am passionate about the work the governing body does to support the school and take the role as a Chair as a great honour but also as a responsibility; I try to ensure we are always working in the best interests of every pupil in our school. If you ever wish to contact me or the Governing body, please leave a message at school and we will respond as soon as possible. We also attend many events including Parents Evenings, so please look out for us and say hello, we will love to talk you....



Daniele Whittaker

Cromford School has new vision and aims

Staff and Governors met on 7/9/15 to agree on a new vision and new aims for the school - ones that represent better the school we have become and the school we aspire to be. After a fruitful morning, we agreed on the following strap line and vision which you received in October:

Learn, aspire and achieve in a caring Christian environment.

We are a creative, caring, Church of England Primary School that provides an all-round education of the highest quality for each and every child. In partnership with families, we nurture self-belief and inspire a love for learning, encouraging all to become successful, able and responsible members of the community.

We've also defined 8 aims which you can see on the school website. We hope you share the vision and aims we've set the school. If you have any comment on this, please leave a note with Julie Hamilton who will pass it on to us.

Parents Views

We're due an OFSTED inspection very soon and the feedback from parents is one of the first things OFSTED inspectors look at.

It would help tremendously, if we can start collecting parents' views on the OFSTED website:
www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

This can be done at any time prior to the inspection and on the day of the inspection itself and by each parent (mother and father).

Thank you very much in advance.

Our website has a new look: Pay us a visit and don't forget to follow us on Twitter!



Our website www.cromfordcofeschool.com has received a face lift! It looks more current and is easier to navigate. It's a great source of information about the school and it is updated regularly. If you haven't done so already, please pay us a visit. You'll find what's happening at school (events, Infants Class, Junior Class), what parents need to know (parents letters, school policies and key information and data about our school), who is who (Staff, Governors, Cromford School PTA, Children School Council). If you have ideas to make it better, let us know!

We're also now on Twitter. If you have a Twitter account, please follow us @CromfordPrimary

Introducing our new Governors



Chris Smartt, Parent Governor - Resources Committee

I am married to Alys and we have two children, Megan and Joseph. Megan is in year 1 and Joseph will join the school in September 2016. I have lived in Cromford for 10 years and work as a research scientist in the School of Electronic Engineering at the University of Nottingham.

Gill Donaldson, Co-opted Governor – Teaching & Learning and Resources Committees

I have lived in Derbyshire for 36 years and in Cromford for 31 years. I have recently retired from teaching at Highfields School where I was the SENCo. Both of my daughters attended Cromford School and now my eldest grandson is in year 1. Previously, I was a governor at Cromford as both a parent governor and a foundation governor for a total of 10 years including several years as chair. My hobbies are my grandchildren, walking, knitting and reading – but obviously not all at the same time!



Janet Bonsall, Co-opted Governor - Teaching & Learning Committee

I have lived in Cromford nearly all my life. As a child I attended Cromford Primary School as did my husband, my three children and even my mother in law! I have a background in teaching, both primary and special needs. Although I have recently retired I am keen to maintain my involvement in education and to see Cromford Primary to continue to flourish and grow.

Louise Goode, Foundation Governor - Resources Committee

I have lived in Cromford for the past 9 years and am the mother of 2 young children. I work at Cromford playgroup and think that the school is an important part of the community. My background is in Marketing and Account Management. I am the chair of the Resources Committee.



Complete List of Governors:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Daniele Whittaker | Authority (Chair of Governors) |
| Gill Donaldson | Co-opted (Vice Chair of Governors) |
| Sally Wright | Parent (Supporting Vice Chair of Governors) |
| Liz Foster | Headteacher |
| Glyn Knighton | Parent |
| Nicola Paine | Parent |
| Chris Smartt | Parent |
| Janet Bonsall | Co-opted |
| Isabelle Chatfield | Co-opted |
| Michael Ledger | Co-opted |
| Louise Goode | Foundation |
| Nick Grayshon | Foundation |
| Julie Taylor | Foundation |
| Nigel Fletcher | Staff |
| Julie Hamilton | Clerk to Governors |

Types of Governors

- Parent Governors are elected by the parents
- Co-opted Governors are chosen by the Governors amongst the community
- Foundation Governors are elected by the Diocese
- Authority Governors are chosen by the Local Authority
- Staff Governors are elected by the staff

New Curriculum and Assessment Framework (Assessing without Levels)

In September 2014 the Government introduced a new National Curriculum. The school have purchased new Maths and Literacy resources to support the changing requirements. In addition we have begun to buy some new laptops and i-pads to allow us to meet the requirements of the new Computing curriculum which includes writing computer programming code.

A new way of assessing the children and registering their progress was also introduced by the Government last year: assessing without levels. Although the levels previously used have disappeared, it doesn't mean children abilities and progress are not tracked. Each child is assessed according to their skills and the development of these skills is recorded using a new terminology 'emerging, expected, exceeding'. The new tracking system is now fully operational and school will soon organise an open evening to give parents more information.

Attendance levels

Attendance levels are ones of the key criteria schools are judged by. Our target for the year is 95.5%. Unfortunately, after a good start of the year, we were below in December with 94.25%. Could we please ask all parents for your help with this. Attending school every day and on time is one of the simplest things you can do to help your child do better at school. The school has put in place a reward system to encourage the children to attend regularly. Don't hesitate to talk to your teacher / Mrs Foster. They can help solve any difficulties in getting your child to go to school - and there are other forms of support available if you still have problems. **Thanks in advance for your help with this.**