



Governors Newsletter

Issue 2 – Summer 2015

Chair's Word

As the school year ends, it is always a good time to look back and see what has been achieved. It certainly has been a busy one! Our successful Church Inspection, although stressful, confirmed that "Cromford is a good school". Staff, pupils, parents and governors all spoke to the inspector, who was impressed with the commitment and support for the school.

The Governing Body have been working very hard to fulfil its diverse role. Cromford is very lucky to have such a loyal, talented and committed group. We sadly said goodbye to Dave Hetherington in April. He had served as a governor since 2008 and as an ex-headteacher, used his vast experience to help move Cromford forward. In July we also say goodbye to another long serving governor, Maggie Martin, who has decided to retire. Maggie has been a governor since 1999! She has helped the school through challenging times and as Chair of Governors for a number of years, was instrumental in making the school the success it is today.



As ever, the children are the focus of my thoughts. I am always thrilled by their many achievements and the brass concert they gave stands out in my mind. It was amazing to see such concentration and skill. I am always impressed by the number of different experiences we offer to our pupils.

This is my final newsletter, as I am standing down from the Governing Body from September. I will miss being a governor, but I am confident that the school community will continue to go from strength to strength. I feel very privileged to have been part of such a successful team and wish everyone, pupils, parents, staff and governors the very best for the future.

Lynne Dunsmore

Results of Parents Surveys and Updates

As governors, it is our role to canvass parents' views on important issues. We ran 2 consultations this year and here are the results:

• Collaboration with Monyash School

We received 5 replies from parents, 4 felt it was not causing any issues for Cromford, 1 was worried about the long term future

The collaboration with Monyash School will formally end at the end of the Summer term. It has been a valuable learning experience for all members of the school team. Mrs Foster will resume her previous position as head and part time junior class teacher in September 2015.

• Collective Worship

At our Church inspection in November 2014, as you know, we were rated Good. Our areas to develop are listed on the SIAMS report, which is available on the school website. Of the 9 responses received, all but 1 were very positive about the Christian Ethos of the School.

Changes to our Governing Body

All Governing Bodies in the country have been asked to make some constitution changes as of September 2015:

- There will be one Local Authority governor
Daniele Whittaker
- Co-Opted Governors: Michael Ledger, Isabelle Chatfield, Gill Donaldson and Janet Bonsall (Gill and Janet are newly appointed)
- Foundation governors (selected by the Diocese)
Nick Grayshon, Julie Taylor and Louise Goode, (who is newly appointed)
- Parent governors: Sally Wright, Nicola Paine, Glyn Knighton and Chris Smartt (who was elected by the parents in June)

Together with Liz Foster (head-teacher) and Nigel Fletcher (staff governor), there will be fourteen members in our full governing body. Julie Hamilton (our school secretary) continues as clerk to the governors.

For a full and updated governors list, please visit the school website.

A New Curriculum for Primary Schools

This year, a new Primary curriculum was introduced alongside a new way of assessing children levels and progress.

The staff are working hard to implement the changes and the governors have been monitoring the introduction of this change and its impact.

The school will be organising a parents evening in Oct/Nov 2015 to give you more details.

Cromford School Gets a New Website

We are very pleased to announce that, from September 2015, the school will have a new website. Mrs Foster, Mrs Hamilton and a group of governors are working together on this project and have now selected a supplier. The new website will look more current and will be easy to navigate. It will also be mobile compatible. We will keep the same website address:

cromfordcofeschool.com

The 2015-16 Budget and School Improvement Plan are now in place

The annual school budget, which runs from April 2015 until March 2016, is now in place and is being monitored by the Resources Committee. The School Improvement Plan, which details the areas for development within the school for the next financial year, is also in place and is being monitored by the Teaching and Learning Committee.

Our Year 6 Leavers and Parents' Views of Cromford School

PUPILS

"It's a small, lovely school!"

"I'll miss all the good things that the teachers and governors do... oh and the tuck shop!"

"There are lots of opportunities to try new things"

"For me it's been life changing!"

"It's not a busy place, there are less people and you know everyone"

"It's nice to see governors around the school"

"I've got friends in all year groups!"

"The teachers make things fun!"

"You feel comfortable around the teachers, you know they will always help"

"We'll miss looking after the little ones!"

PARENTS

"A brilliant little school! All staff do their best"

"A close knit community, very friendly staff and well mannered children"

"A very happy and close knit school"

"My three children have all been here and it's fab! It's a welcoming school and all do well and achieve!"

"We have found Cromford Primary a very supportive and caring environment. The levels of communication between home and school have been amazing and we could not have wished for more in a school."