

# Governor News

## Your school Governors

Chair - Tim Kirk  
Vice Chair - Helen Lloyd

## Foundation Governors

Lucy Jones  
Rev Mark Turner

## Community Governors

Tim Kirk  
Rick Hindley

## Staff Governors

Claire Morgan—Headteacher  
Dave Patch—Deputy Head

## Parent Governors

Helen Lloyd  
Rachael Simpson  
Jo Wilton  
Sarah Samson

## County Council Governors

Rob Hudson  
Sheila Ross

**Please take a moment to look at the school website where you will find further information regarding each group of Governors:**

[www.selattyn.shropshire.sch.uk](http://www.selattyn.shropshire.sch.uk)

## Issue: 3 December 2014

### Welcome to the Autumn Term Newsletter from Selattyn School Governors

So, the long Winter term comes to a frantic end and we consider all the actions and many achievements at the start of the school year. For your Governors, we welcomed Sarah Samson as a newly elected (by parents) parent Governor. Sarah has already been of great help on the IT front, in particular the website. This is now an up to date fixture that parents can rely on for information and serves as a good introduction to our school for newcomers and those seeking a school for their children. The trick is to keep it that way! Last year the teachers and Governors identified maths as an on-going weakness through the school and set about bringing fresh interest to this subject for the children, for example equating events as often as possible with numbers. The SATS results are the first sign that this initiative is working. Of course it is an on-going task and one that many parents can join in with, as families on car journeys and so on.

The school has many aspects to it and the self help that is always evident demonstrates this admirably. The school productions take time but the results are always magnificent and much enjoyed by all, giving great confidence to the participants.

Our PTA never fails to surprise with great events! Be it the Spooky Disco, Winter Fayre, or 'soup extravaganza'. These fulfil three roles for the school: they are great fun for all to enjoy, they help the morale of everyone involved in the school and the PTA raises funds for otherwise unavailable items for the school to purchase and benefit from. All this as another part of their mega busy, multi tasking lives. A great thank you to the whole Committee.

At the end of last term the Governors sent out a 20 point questionnaire. You have seen some

of the actions taken and I hope we have updated you on various 'improvements', initiated by parents via this medium. We are discussing how to get more from the next version in Summer 2015. In particular to ensure parents that have special concerns, voice them when they occur and have them dealt with on a personal basis. It is up to *you* please to do this. The questionnaire will concentrate on whole school/class improvements that might be made and items that impact on classes and the school rather than one individual. This does not mean we will avoid the 'is your child happy at Selattyn?' question, which I believe is No 1 at all times. To add to this, please do not forget that your Governors are there to try and help. No school day will pass when at least one parent Governor is not present on the playground — morning and evening. If you have any concerns with school perhaps you could discuss these with one of them in the first instance. If in doubt as to who is a Governor there are three sets of "mug shots", placed on various notice boards around the school.

We seem to have got through the term with a minimum of illness and the attendance records continue to show that the school is a welcoming and thriving institution .

The new class system is now well bedded in and appears a resounding success. This has meant a vast amount of work for all staff, for which we must all be very grateful. We thank them for the extra time they have put in with moving the classrooms around and settling into a fresh routine. We also thank them for their great contribution to the ever challenging life at school.

**Tim Kirk—Chairman of Governors**

## this issue

P.1 Notes from the Chair

P.2 2014 Results

P.3 Remembrance Day

Link Governors

P.4 Curriculum update

*small, special, successful*

# Assessment, Attainment & Progress

At the end of each key stage all pupils are formally assessed and results are published for each school.

Progress is measured in full levels ie. Level 1 to level 3 = two levels progress, although each level is in fact divided into three sub-levels to monitor progress throughout the year. Progress of levels is determined from the pupils' level score at the end of Key Stage one.

National expected progress is 2 levels.

National average expected level is 4.

The following tables show the excellent progress made by our pupils in year 6! **100% of pupils made 2 levels progress** and a massive percentage made 3 levels progress! **Attainment also shows a high percentage of pupils gained level 5 results, with some achieving an excellent level 6.**

Teaching staff in school are committed to every pupil being challenged and supported to ensure they reach their full potential and use end of term assessment data to highlight and identify any pupil who would benefit from extra tuition, challenge or support. Many extra support sessions take place regularly every week of the school year. During the 2014 academic year:

- Ms Morgan ran 3 after school sessions and 1 before school session,
- Mr Patch ran 2 after school sessions and
- Mrs Betts ran many break time and lunch time sessions to facilitate true inclusion.

## 2014 Progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2

(National expected progress is 2 levels)

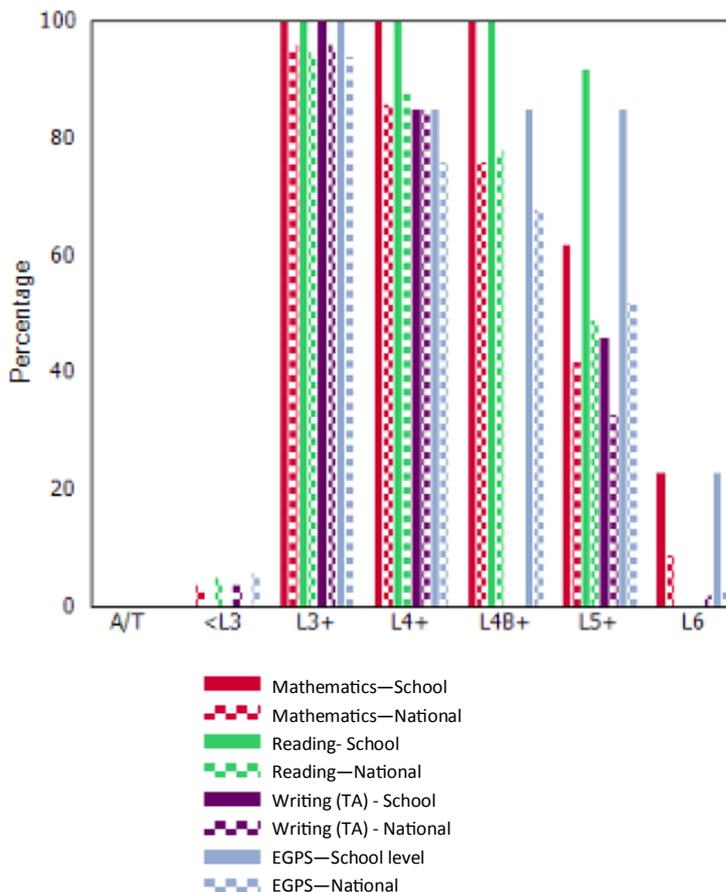
	Maths	Reading	Writing
	<b>2 LEVELS PROGRESS</b>	<b>2 LEVELS PROGRESS</b>	<b>2 LEVELS PROGRESS</b>
<b>School Actual Result</b>	100%	100%	92%
	<b>3 LEVELS PROGRESS</b>	<b>3 LEVELS PROGRESS</b>	<b>3 LEVELS PROGRESS</b>
<b>School Actual Result</b>	62%	62%	38%
	<b>4 LEVELS PROGRESS</b>	<b>4 LEVELS PROGRESS</b>	<b>4 LEVELS PROGRESS</b>
<b>School Actual Result</b>	8%	0%	0%

## 2014 Levels Attained at the end of Key Stage 2

(National Average expected level is 4)

	Maths	Reading	Writing	Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar
	<b>LEVEL 3</b>	<b>LEVEL 3</b>	<b>LEVEL 3</b>	<b>LEVEL 3</b>
<b>School Actual Result</b>	0%	0%	15%	17%
	<b>LEVEL 4</b>	<b>LEVEL 4</b>	<b>LEVEL 4</b>	<b>LEVEL 4</b>
<b>School Actual Result</b>	38%	8%	38%	0%
	<b>LEVEL 5</b>	<b>LEVEL 5</b>	<b>LEVEL 5</b>	<b>LEVEL 5</b>
<b>School Actual Result</b>	38%	92%	46%	67%
	<b>LEVEL 6</b>	<b>LEVEL 6</b>	<b>LEVEL 6</b>	<b>LEVEL 6</b>
<b>School Actual Result</b>	23%	0%	0%	25%

## Percentage of pupils attaining each level in 2014



## Quality of Teaching

Last year governors carried out a Quality of Teaching and Learning interview with school council members, all achieved of course with full co-operation and assistance of Ms Morgan. The geared questioning produced an outcome that showed children were unsure of their individual targets. This was swiftly dealt with by the teachers. Happily, we can confirm the children are still very knowledgeable regarding their targets following this year's follow up interview!

This year we have created a new questionnaire, which we have put to one boy and one girl from each year group (except Reception as they are a little young!). The children were interviewed in groups of 4. The basis of the questionnaire was to determine their personal thoughts on areas related to Teaching and Learning. The children were a delight and had some very funny answers such as;

**Question: "What do you think makes a good teacher?"**

**Answer: "If they can do magic!"**

The children were very forthcoming in their answers and there were lots of very thoughtful and sensible answers given! It was lovely to see the children so alert, interested and understanding, of the impromptu questions put to them. 'Happy', 'confident', 'keen' and 'able' are the words that spring to mind. Thank you children. We will be interviewing Years 5 and 6 after Christmas. Once again there will be a follow up of the questionnaire with Ms Morgan.

School is committed to monitoring its carbon footprint by ensuring photocopying and printing is done in black and white as far as possible.

# Reflections on Remembrance Day



As a governor I felt privileged to be part of the school's Remembrance Service held on Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am.

The children assembled in the hall with their class teachers, Parent Governors and our visitors.

The reception class who had made their own poppies with the help of their teachers, Miss Ward, Miss Davies and Miss Morris wore them with smiling enthusiasm so proud of their achievements.

Mrs Betts' and Mrs Orritt's class had made some wonderful large laminated poppies with long stems perfect for planting in the memorial garden later.

Ms Morgan's class decorated the front window of their classroom with poppies surrounding the words "Lest we Forget". This was a wonderful display for the village community to see.

The children held up their poppies for everyone in the hall to see and some of the older children read out poems that they had written thanking the soldiers for their sacrifice.

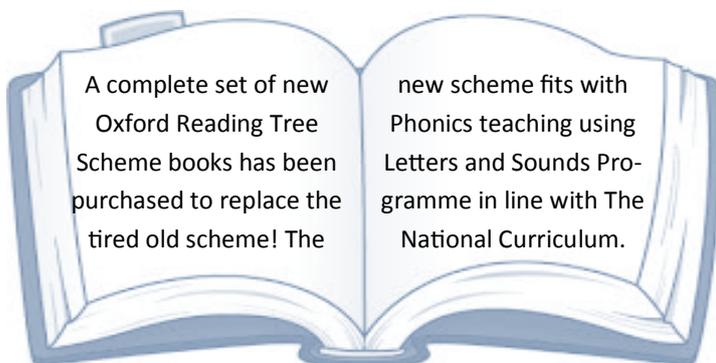
The theme of the short service led by the Head, focussed on the words "Lest we Forget" and the minute's silence was observed by us all.

The children then went slowly down to the memorial garden in pairs to plant their poppies in the long grass. I was pleased to be able to accompany one of the children from Class 1 and we planted a poppy together.

The whole occasion was carried out with great respect and I am certain that the children understood the meaning of remembrance.

The planted poppies swaying in the wind, reminded me of the sea of poppies at the Tower of London display.

Although we were remembering the past, a phrase came to mind, "children are the living messages we send to a time we will not see who are the hope for the future."



# Link Governors

The Governing Body has appointed Link Governors to act as the liaison between the governing body and specific subject/ curriculum areas or aspects of the school. The role of a link governor is as a source of support to the school and a source of information for the governing body.

**These are our appointed roles;**

English Local Curriculum & Pupil Premium	Jo Wilton
Maths	Rob Hudson
Science	Sheila Ross
Geography	Tim Kirk
French	Helen Lloyd
DT & ICT	Rick Hindley
Music & Art Website	Sarah Samson
PE/Games	Rachael Simpson
RE/Collective Worship	Rev Mark Turner
PSHE	Lucy Jones

# Outside the Gates

The school jurisdiction ends at the gates, but we are involved and concerned by access to the school and in particular safety of the children. So the eternal problems of parking are an inevitable topic. We have tried to improve the lighting around the entrance to help access after dark. Luckily this barely impacts on the daily pick-ups, but for others using the school, particularly staff, after 4pm in the winter, the darkness is a hazard. We persuaded the Council to put in an automatic 'finger' light half way along the path on the Oswestry side of the gates. If this proves successful and has helps improve visibility along the path, then we can try for another for the final stretch.

The Yew tree in front of the School House cottage blocks light on the short length of path up to the junction, and to be safe—traffic permitting—it is easiest to walk in the road. The Hanmer Morris Trust (cottage landlords) had planned to clear the light at half term, but are now hoping to get the job done in the short Christmas break.

We have had visits from the police about our parking mayhem at school delivery and pick-up times. In particular dealing with parents who park on the zig-zags (Oh I won't be long officer!) and the dangerous and illegal parking on the junction corner, where the occasional parent risks life and limb by fly-parking there. Please don't do it; It makes life for the village traffic very difficult!

Tim Kirk, Chairman of Governors

## Curriculum Update

### Local

*Local Curriculum* has moved on a pace and Ms Morgan has had numerous meetings with the Orienteering Centre Planner from The Vicarage at Stottesdon in order to create and deliver this unique experience to our children, under the banner of *Local Curriculum* following implementation of our new School curriculum. We expect Orienteering to start in the Spring Term. All staff completed an after school training session in order to be able to deliver this exciting, tailored offering to our school.

## Parents' Evening

Following an assessment week of data input into the school tracking system, Ms Morgan chose to reformat and restructure parents evening in order to streamline the event. To achieve this, individual graphs and tables for each child were created in order to show their attainment and progress for their whole time at school and put it against that of the National Average. The report was handed out at parents evenings along with a written end of term report. Attitude and Behaviour to Learning formed the basis of a second report sheet. Parent Governors all expressed their appreciation for this extra effort and past on expressions of appreciation from a number of parents.

## Working With Other Schools

Years 5 and 6 have been working alongside a number of other schools on community based curriculum work. They have been to St Martins school and other away days. This term's final meeting culminated in an inter-school competition which Selattyn won! Great work, much practice and some fun has been had in this positive collaborative work.

## Politeness

This term, the PTA and Parent Governors held a "Spook-tacular" Disco for all the children. The event was a resounding success and much fun was had. Worth noting is the comment from the quite fantastic DJ for the evening who said, **"in all my time of DJ-ing at school events, most definitely these are the most well-mannered bunch I have dealt with. Seriously they really are good kids. I've had lots of requests and lots of please and thank-you's. It's quite noticeable how different they are to your usual kids!"** Happy days... thank you children, parents and school for upholding the seemingly old fashioned tradition of good manners!

## A Big Thank You



As a Foundation Governor one of my roles is to liaise between the church and the school. The Christian ethos runs through the heart of Selattyn School's values. It was lovely to see the generosity of school parents with the donation of shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. 31 shoe boxes were collected from the school and members of Selattyn Church. The boxes looked great and a lot of effort had obviously gone into decorating them. They will provide a lot of enjoyment for those children for whom Christmas would otherwise be spent with very little. Once they have been delivered I will let you know which country they were sent to. Once again many thanks on behalf of Operation Christmas Child for your time and generosity.

Lucy Jones—Foundation Governor



### Contacting Us

If you ever need to contact any one of us please drop us a note at Reception, or speak to one of the Parent Governors on the yard.

Please remember that there is a Governors section on the school's website, including our photographs.



### Christmas Holidays are here!

Governors would like to wish all parents and pupils a very happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone again in the new year.

Best wishes to all.