



Governor News

Your school Governors

Chair - Tim Kirk
Vice Chair - Sarah Samson

Foundation Governors

Lucy Jones
Maggie Barnes

County Council Governors

Sheila Ross

Co-Opted Governors

(Previously Community Governor)

Tim Kirk
Sioned Hughes
Val Baty

Staff Governors

Claire Morgan - Head teacher
Dave Patch - Teacher

Parent Governors

Rachael Simpson
Sarah Samson
Richard Mountford
Lee Pimble

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

Issue: 8 April 2017

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter from Selattyn School Governors

Welcome,

2016 was the year of inspections and in the next 2 years between these visits we have a good opportunity to consolidate those excellent results and continue to seek out new ways to improve our school performance and bring variety and achievement to our daily routine.

Academisation of all State schools was on the government agenda last summer, but no sooner had it appeared than the minister qualified this requirement to exclude those schools with at least a "Good" rating — and that included Selattyn.

Notwithstanding this situation, your Governors together with the Head, continue to look at our options. Academisation through this county & beyond has linked Primary & Primary and also Primary & Secondary. After deliberation, we decided to widen our 'collaborative net' and build a relationship with Moreton Hall School as well as continue with our co-operative, two-way curriculum with St Martins All Through School.

With Moreton Hall, our year 5 & 6 pupils have taken part in drama, singing & art sessions; the culmination over a period of 6 weeks being a superb performance of poetry, song & art work based on T.S. Elliot's 'Cats' poems & Andrew Lloyd-Webbers 'Cats' musical. Pupils enjoyed working in a different environment & used the experience to good advantage. Next term, swimming & science will be added to the list of subject's class 4M will enjoy at Moreton Hall. With St Martin's class 4M have continued their 3-year long programme of working with St Martins staff and this pass term enjoyed ceramics work based on British Values. The final piece of collective art work hopefully being on display permanently in our school grounds. We are most grateful to the staff of these two schools for their continued support.

Our school numbers are stable at 92, with a good balance in year groups, and such figures enable us to fund our current good staffing levels, especially with TAs. At times, we seem to be bursting at the seams! So the additional outdoor cover from the top classrooms was especially welcome and will bring many benefits, including shelter from the rain, shade on sunny days and an extra place to temporarily place equipment and clothes.

The latest addition, taking shape as I write, is the conservatory that replaces the poor quality, damp extension that used to be the staff room. The new area will replace the existing storage area for years 5 & 6 and also house a small 'extra' space for storage & occasional meetings. The conservatory has been funded by a substantial grant from Shropshire Council Learning & Skills. Many thanks also to our generous PTA for the donations for

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small, special, successful

furnishing the new storage area & match funding for the new canopy attached to the demountables. Thanks as always for their hard work for this and many other projects that they support with funds raised from their many happy activities! Hard work for them and greatly appreciated by the school.



Added to these extras we have seen the completion of the new heating system that seems to be working very successfully, though we have yet to assess the financial comparison with the previous ancient storage heaters. Finally, we allocated £20,000 to a total revamp of our IT system including new interactive boards for each class. Our IT facility is a constant concern with so many activities reliant on this working all the time, particularly the admin. If there seems to be some tension around the office, you can bet the IT is on the blink! Much of this work has had to proceed whilst the school is in session, and well done to all for managing despite the interruptions.

With so much going on in the school it is easy to forget the daily task of teaching and learning. One of the reasons we have been so successful on the academic front is our teachers, TAs and volunteers, and the quality work and dedication they put towards your children's education. The fact that most have stayed at the school for a long period is so important to us and we, as your Governors applaud their dedication to Selattyn. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to remind all parents that your governors are there to help and advise on any problem with the school that you may have. There are 12 of us, and listed on our website, or via the mug shots shown around the school. If you are unsure of contact details for the non-parent governors, please ask at the office.

Tim Kirk

Chair of the School Governors.



Health & Safety Update

The Health & Safety Committee met on 17th February 2017 following a very productive period of activity for the school. Following our last meeting in October a new heating and cooling system has been installed by Shropshire Council

with a wooden fencing placed around the unit to safeguard the pupils and prevent potential accidents from occurring.

A new canopy for the demountable buildings was installed with protective padding applied to the metal supports to prevent injuries to the pupils.

Improving the central heating system and fabric of the buildings impacts on the school's future financial costs, and helps enhance the quality of the school environment for pupils and teachers and visitors.

An inspection of the wall at the front of the school has been carried out by a surveyor and the school is awaiting their report. Artificial grass has been ordered for Class 1W

outside area, and is waiting to be laid. The steps leading from the lower to upper level of the school still need to be painted. Unfortunately the persistent inclement weather has delayed completion of these two items.

As part of the annual school risk assessment review, the Fire Risk Policy has been updated with a whole school fire drill practice carried out on February 6th 2017.

New procedures have been put in place regarding collection and the storing of pupils accident forms. A new policy document has also been introduced for reporting any accidents that happen to staff and visitors; anyone suffering an injury will initially have to be seen by a First Aider on site.



All play equipment was inspected by ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) in October, and equipment for outdoor play is checked weekly with problems reported to Mr Patch. Good governance of the school is important in regularly updating and maintaining Risk Assessment Policies and Procedures.

A whole site inspection was carried out by the Health and Safety Committee, and necessary actions are underway to resolve any issues.



On March 3rd work commenced to demolish the old building behind Class 4M, a small conservatory is to be erected and small garden area to be provided for class 4 pupils. Although this area is sealed off, with builders on site and Class 4 pupils exiting onto the front part of the school, safety is paramount for us all. It is important that parents arriving with small children take care to prevent any accidents from occurring whilst on the school premises.



Village Green

Wearing my dual hats of Governor and Editor of Village Green, I would like to thank this year's School News correspondents Charlie, Iwan, Rowen and George for their

contributions to our local newsletter. Already we are approaching the end of the Spring Term - how time flies - so only one more edition for you to write for.

Many people in the village who have no connection with the school may pass the door daily, but have no idea what a vibrant and hard-working community lies within! Your reports capture the spirit of this hive of activity, and are very much appreciated.

Val Baty

Weekly Newsletter

Our Thanks go to Mrs Bennet for the newsletter she produces every week. These go home with children every Friday. Additional copies are available in the reception area.

Please make sure you check these newsletters every week to ensure you don't miss essential information and deadlines.

A Link Governor Visit February 2017

As part of Ofsted's Link Governor Development and expectations, class room visits were organised for all Governors, over this term, to observe pupils learning activities linked to the school curriculum and the school development plan. My first visit was to the Reception Class, where the atmosphere was warm and welcoming. The class room was bright with plenty of examples of creative art work around the walls. There were numerous books and activity tools for play and learning, a quiet corner for reading, and a mock "Post Office" to engage the pupils in social interaction. This is a wonderful learning environment to start on the children's primary school journey. This is so different from my own formative years at school.

13 children in the class aged between 4 and 5, they were chatty and animated sitting around small tables. The first lesson was comprised of reading to each other, in pairs. Some of the children were breaking down more difficult words using phonic sounds, others were talking about the animal pictures in their books. Some of the children were talking to the teacher about their book's story, and answering questions. The children were given the opportunity to choose their own library books, and as I was sitting close by, they came to talk and show me the books they had chosen. Most of the children knew me and were confident and happy to talk.

The second lesson was Maths with the children sitting down in front of the teacher in a "rainbow" style semi circle, with some children who needed extra help being supported separately by the teaching assistant. The children were learning to count up to 30, learning the difference between even and odd numbers, using number flash cards to show the teacher the correct answer, and circling the correct number on the white wash board. The lesson became more animated as the pupils chanted the even numbers loudly and the odd numbers softly in

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unison under the direction of the teacher, ending in an arm raising end.

All the children were completely engaged in the activity, and it was a wonderful example of the different learning techniques used by the teacher. Aural (Listening and speaking) Visual, and Kinaesthetic, (learning by action) which were all used for the benefit of all the pupils.

"Thinking for Maths" has been a key focus in the 2017 School Development Plan to help pupils develop confidence and improve their mathematical skills. Developing an interest and enjoyment of maths in pupils during their early years of learning can help secure a positive approach to maths thinking and attainment as they progress through school.

There was a wonderful rapport between all the teachers and children in the class, and kindness was shown by the children to each other.

It was a joy and privilege to sit in the class room and to be part of the children's learning journey.

Sheila Ross. (Governor)



Collective Worship

During the past two terms the children of class 4M have embarked on an exciting new venture! Louise Woolcock has given them an exciting programme involving multi-coloured post it notes and balloons. In small groups the children have been exploring what "Worship" means. They have looked at things that are important to them and why, and what things make up a worship service. Over the next term in small groups they are going to plan and produce their own collective worship sessions for the whole school to enjoy. They have such a lot of great and varied ideas.....watch this space. We would like to thank Lou for her time and enthusiasm and have thoroughly enjoyed being involved and can't wait for the next phase! Maggie & Lucy (Foundation)

SCHOOL — KEEP — CLEAR

PARKING !

Early morning drop-offs have become so much simpler and easier, now that the children are allowed in to class at 8.30. This has eased the parking situation in the village, and thanks should be extended to the teaching staff, who have now lost valuable preparation time in the morning, to accommodate the welfare and safety of our children.

Afternoon collections are still very busy and roadside parking is at a premium. Mr David Lloyd is happy for parents to use The Cross Keys car park whilst the pub is not open (until 5pm), there are regularly spaces in there, whilst there are still many dangerously parked cars out on the road. It is only a short distance from the school gate to the pub car park, please try and use it, to help reduce the chaos outside on the highway.

Through the Shropshire council Temporary Seat Payment Scheme your child may be able to have a place on the school bus, again alleviating parking issues. Please contact Shropshire Council for further information.

Please be thoughtful about where and how you park! In particular, we ask you to have a special regard ensure that the village residents are not inconvenienced. And do let any governor know about any problems or solutions you may see to this difficult issue. Thank you.

Be prepared and don't flinch

Last autumn term whilst on the playground waiting to collect Bethan, someone came up to me and asked 'how would you fancy being a parent governor?' I obviously flinched, as they carried on and somehow I eventually agreed to put myself forward to the upcoming election. In the back of my mind I thought I could always be reprieved by other candidates winning the election - well I could have been if anyone else had stood!

Well I don't know about you but initially I wasn't entirely sure what the real role of the Parent Governor was, or indeed what the real the role of the whole governing body was (12 good and true people) or how often they meet? (I



heard talk of three times a year and if so are they are surely just a box ticking group to comply with legislation), maybe they are a PTA style group with a 'grander title', do they have any power to make changes to improve

the education of our children? And what could I really offer them?

Within a week I am involved in our first formal meeting, where I find out that: I'll need to go for some training for people new into governance and that there is some further training for governors that is being offered free of charge so we should try to take advantage of it, and that I will be appointed to 2 of the sub-committees, oh and that us governors really do need to spend more time in school during lesson time to see how we can help the pupils and teachers get what they need to be educated and educate fully, and whilst this is going on there is an awful lot of acronyms to keep the mind racing as they speed through the meeting and what was that about Ofsted and what were the county now looking to do and academies are this or was it that and then (pause for breath) aside from all that the head teacher and staff, who I knew did a lot, do even more than I thought or imagined.



I also get to co-ordinate the Skills Audit for the committee members, to see quite where this governing body is at in our skills sets to help and guide the school. The good news is we are in a pretty good situation, some strength could be added here and there, but pretty good – maybe you could help somewhere?

Still reading? And maybe you feel you could offer something, so let's have a simplified look at what the requirements of the governing body actually might look like. You will be a volunteer amongst other parents, staff and members of the local community. A governor initially, as no.1 priority, would have a commitment to ensuring high standards and improving the education for all pupils and their achievements. Would hold a vision for the school and our children (we may all and maybe should all have different initial visions that then form to a collective one), and would develop the ethos as we adhere to the

one we have set. Therefore a purpose to what you/we are doing is key.

We would expect to be able to analyse and fairly challenge any decision made regarding the school and check and ensure that all our children are making acceptable progress. We need to be able to manage our budget and know where our school and our pupils fit in to the local community and all that encompasses. We are not here to criticize but may be a 'critical friend' when needed.

So maybe I haven't sold it to you too well, it is a commitment time-wise (depending on your role and how you develop in to it) 10-20 days and/or evenings per year? BUT if you do feel you have something to offer and most of us do even if only in a limited way, please do make yourself known to any of us. Maybe it is that you have some skills where you could co-opt on to help the governor's through some specific project.

There are challenging times ahead as budgets get squeezed and maybe you have the skills that can help us ensure that our school and your children get the very best from it.

So here I am 5 months in, let me add to what I have seen. You have a group of governors that care about the children and the school (and the forthcoming generations of children) and they are blessed by having a head teacher and staff that care even more. We can be thankful.

If this has scared you off completely but still feel you have something to offer our school then maybe joining or helping the PTA is an option for you, they will always welcome new faces and ideas. Maybe something that you don't realise is that a Youth Club, for 8-15 year olds, runs from the school once a month (typically), maybe you could offer some help there, even if only occasionally. The cage football this month was particularly well received.

Thanks for staying with it.

Oh and remember if one of us does sidle up beside you one day – be careful not to flinch.

Lee Pimble

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.

Easter Holidays are here!

The governors would like to wish you all a fun filled Easter Holiday.

Best wishes to all.

