



# Governor News

## Your school Governors

Chair - Tim Kirk  
Vice Chair - Sarah Samson

## Foundation Governors

Lucy Jones  
Maggie Barns

## 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 - Deputy Head

## Parent Governors

Jo Wilton  
Rachael Simpson  
Sarah Samson  
Richard Mountford

**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: 7

# July 2016

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## Welcome to the Summer Newsletter from Selattyn School Governors

### Welcome

This has been the year of inspections with our "good" rating from Ofsted in January, followed in May by the SIAMS Church of England inspection, which secured an "Outstanding". The work load for all on these occasions is enormous and thanks go to the Head, her staff, and the pupils for their contributions to full and demanding days. Well done!

The Key stage 2 tests always produce in-class tensions and this year was no exception. The rating system has been revised and it is felt nationally that it no longer truly reflects the range of achievements. Selattyn was certainly disappointed with this aspect after all the work put in by staff and children.

Safety has been a key message this term at a number of levels; The Crucial Crew giving excellent instruction on keeping safe, followed by the Stepping out initiative for pedestrians. The children have added their excellent and pertinent posters around the school to enhance these lessons. The alarming posters adjacent to the yellow zig zag lines outside the school entrance caused much comment and have resulted in freer flowing traffic for visitors and importantly for the village. We have to hope that the continuing persistent offenders in this parking area see sense and stop using the zig zags as their own private parking slots!

Whilst the summer weather has insisted on its usual British content, we picked the sports day well and great fun was had by all. The special winner for a sunny day was the PTA Fair. A great hubbub of enjoyable activity and truly all the fun of the fair! Not to mention the £1,500 raised for the school "extras". Then the Book Fair raised further funds for purchasing books. All such hard work for the organisers of these events, and appreciated by all. Thanks to you the PTA, and your committee!

The playground has taken on the look of a garden centre with a never ending stream of plants emerging from the greenhouse to enhance that environment. Congratulations to the children who have participated and again many thanks to the tireless 'you know who'! Part of this has been done on the local curriculum days and despite the weather these events continue to prove the benefit of non classroom learning as a part of our chosen work load.

On a more serious note I should draw your attention to our revised Complaints Policy, displayed on the school website. Happily rarely used, but please be aware of minor improvements. We do not have a parent questionnaire this term as we felt the one completed for Ofsted was sufficient for one year.

*small, special, successful*

What an end to the year with the brilliant end of term production! I must thank the Head and her staff for the terrific contribution they all make to our school. You do a great job. The support that parents give is most valuable to us, and of course the effort your children put into daily school life, fired with their youthful enthusiasm is ever rewarding! Thank you also fellow Governors for your behind the scenes work which is invaluable to the well-being of all concerned.

As always do please let any of us Governors have your comments at any time, contact details on our website or just have a playground chat if anything concerns you.

Happy holidays to you all.

Tim Kirk

Chair of the School Governors.

## Christian Relief!

School and Governors have felt a huge void since the untimely demise of Rev. Mark Turner. Governors have been very keen to at least bridge this gap which is of vital importance in our Christian school. With this in mind, Rev. Alan Reynolds has kindly agreed to be 'around our school' to enhance our Christian offering, give us the benefit of his Christian knowledge and take our Collective Worship once a term.



## Complaints Policy

Following updated advice from county, governors have updated the Selattyn School Complaints policy, including procedures to follow in the event of a concern or complaint.

A copy of the policy is now available on the school website. If you require a printed version please ask at reception. As always if you have any concerns please do come and have a chat to our parent governors on the playground.

## An old story with a modern twist!

As a recently appointed Governor, I was so pleased to be able to see the first of three performances of 'Let My People Go', this year's school summer production. Based on the stories of Moses from the Bible, this show was anything but dry and dusty. We saw baseball caps and shades, kazoos, dance moves, imaginative props and plenty of sparkle – in the scenery, the headgear and on faces. I love sparkle!

The chance to participate in productions such as this are wonderful opportunities for children to develop confidence in front of an audience, teamwork, self-control and concentration – all important skills for life. The wonderful script (by Ms Morgan) and lively rock-style songs (Sheila Wilson) showed that the children of Selattyn School have huge talent - they sang with great style and panache. Everyone, even the youngest, seemed to know all the words (quite a challenge). A huge thank you to the entire cast, each and every one of you, for your superb performances. Very well done!

Val Baty



## Selattyn Horticulture

October 2015 heralded the arrival of the PTA funded Polytunnel, this has brought to life a previously barren area of the school grounds. The children have benefited in so many ways, they have sown seeds, propagated plants and even created the wonderful door wreath for Christmas, within the weather proof tunnel.

This year the children have feasted on the fruits of their labours, feasts of strawberries, sugar snaps, broad beans and rhubarb have all been sampled over the past few weeks. Courgettes are now beginning to find their way into school



bags for parents to sample for tea. We look forward to a bumper crop of sweetcorn, pumpkins and runner beans in the Autumn term.

Special mention should be made to Class 2 and Gardening club, who not only have swept leaves and helped maintain a tidy school, but they have made a beautiful job of the planters around the playground. There is always something of interest to look at, and the children are constantly making improvements and enjoy having ownership of their own space.

Not only have the children developed green fingers, but we must acknowledge the entrepreneurial skills of the year 2s, who undertook some hard sales campaigns, whether it was bunches of Rhubarb or young plants, most parents did not manage to escape from the 'young apprentices'. These hopefully will become a more regular feature next year.

Selattyn school is a haven for wildlife, not only do we have The Little Badgers visiting on a Friday morning, but on Curriculum days, THE DUNG BEETLES (mostly consisting of class 4 boys), who with great enthusiasm lug Mrs. Betts horse manure into the compost bins, which are now beginning to be productive and producing the finest silkiest compost worthy of Mr. Arthur Bower or John Innes.



The polytunnel area has been a fabulous learning tool for the children, where they can carry out activities with their hands in the fresh air, all which can be tied into their academic learning. A place where many children can thrive. Thanks to Selattyn School and the PTA for giving the children that opportunity.

I think my favourite part of the day is 'child-initiated time' when the children have 20 minutes to do something they want to do; the wildlife up in the forest school area has had many homes built for it and plenty of stick sculptures! Molehills get turned into 'hedgehogs' and other amazing animals.

We are so lucky to have the space and environment for forest school. It gives children who don't feel an aptitude for classwork, a chance to really shine in a different space.

## Queensway



What a great day was had on the school's annual visit to Queensway for the local area schools athletics day. I was lucky enough to accompany our school to this event and what a day.

To start with, the children all looked superb in the school sports kit that was provided by PTA a few years ago; they stood out really well, which meant we could easily cheer them on. And oh boy, when I say cheer them on, I mean cheer them on! We may have been the smallest school there, but we certainly made our voices heard, which was wonderful. All our children willed the whole team over the finishing line in each event, and what a great feeling it was.

The day was amazing and all of the children did our school proud; their behaviour was immaculate as usual. By the time we were on our way home I think most of us had lost our voices, which made for a quiet return to school.

## Safer Schools Initiative



As part of the "Safer Schools" initiative, a group meeting was held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June, the group was led by Mr Ian Bartlett (Shropshire Council Crime Prevention Officer) with teacher

Mr Patch, a Governor, Parent Governor and two year 4 School Councillors. Unfortunately the local police constable could not attend the meeting.

The School Safety Survey to parents was reviewed, and the feedback was positive.

### Results showed:

Q1: 96% of parents felt that Selattyn School is a safe site

Q2: 100% felt that the school was tidy and welcoming.

Q3: 96% thought that the school signage and directional signage was adequate.

Q4: 100% of parents are aware that on visiting the school they should report to the school reception via the main entrance.

Q5: 100% of parents are aware that daytime visitors to the school should wear a school visitor badge, and that staff should wear their ID badges at all times.

### Points raised from the survey:

- Parents parking on zigzag lines outside the school premises--- a danger to children. The group discussed the display of new signage and suggested timed drop off of children to help reduce problems with parking.
- Crumbling wall at front of school noted and is already on the Health and Safety agenda. The school site maintenance manager has already been contacted.
- The vulnerability of children climbing over the double bar gate at the entrance to the school playground area (Entrance needed to allow emergency vehicles and lunch supplies through).

To date no child has attempted to climb over the gate, which is locked. The drive way to the gate is out of bounds to all pupils, therefore they never reach the gate.

**No parent or child of any age should ever enter or exit from school via the back gate and driveway, unless they are authorised, disabled or have permission to do so from**

**school office.** The back entrance is covered by a legal covenant which only allows disabled access, access for delivery of goods etc and for maintenance!

The Health & Safety Committee will look into all these matters at the next meeting to be held in the autumn term. The governors would like to thank all the parents who took part in this survey. Feedback from parent's surveys can help raise the awareness of potential problems, encourage co-operation and improve the health and safety governance of the school.

The group reviewed the ten essential items included in the Security and Safety recommendations and considerations for all school sites, as part of the Safer Schools Initiative.

- Point 7- This is to regularly remind pupils to inform staff immediately strangers are seen on the school premises without a school visitor badge, and that pupils must not open reception doors to visitors. (This message has already been reinforced to pupils in the school assembly.)
- Following a review and discussion of Safer School Initiative problems, it was agreed to use Problem and Incident recording sheets to report incidents.
- To discuss and possibly initiate a 'Safer Parking Charter' for parents, with the help of pupils from the school council.
- To install a safety box on the back of the school entrance front door, and update the school "Smart Water" sets.
- Progressing with the Safer Schools Initiative programme will continue to help maintain a safer environment for the pupils, staff and visitors to the school.

**Please stop your children climbing on the wrought iron gate, at the side of the front building, while waiting to collect siblings after school.**

## Health & Safety update

The Health & Safety Committee met on 12/5/2016

This term the main items on the agenda were focused on safety issues concerning the pupils, staff and visitors to the school, as well as the usual maintenance issues.

Both the Fire Risk Assessment and the internet E-Safety Policy have been updated for one year, next review May 2017. These reviews are important to maintain statutory guidelines and provide good governance to the school.

New Health and Safety signage produced by the pupils have been placed at strategic points on the steps leading to the upper part of the school and along the entrance area outside the school. This safety initiative, taken and owned by the pupils, has helped to visually educate everyone and safeguard pupils, staff, parents and visitors to prevent potential traffic accidents from occurring. This initiative by the pupils has shown how important they consider safety is for all on and around the school premises.

Following a whole site assessment by the Health & Safety Committee any items needing attention will be addressed as soon as financially possible, to prevent accidents to pupils, staff, parents, and the wider community.

## Local Curriculum continues apace...

**Orienteering** - Groups of children in twos and threes trailing around school campus looking for items on marker pegs. If you keep your eyes peeled you'll spot some of the markers!

**Rights for Life** - This classroom-based activity is where our children learn about UNICEF and other Welfare and Crises areas throughout the world. This is a very real and quite grown-up subject for our children to learn about. It is also important that our young pupils are aware of the world around us and grow up respecting and knowing of the rights of others

**Forest School** - A fun and action packed activity where the children learn and interact with nature.

**Healthy Life Challenge** - Indoor sports coupled with the preparation and sampling of healthy food, a winner all round.

**Sustainability and Grow Your Own** - From digging the ground to growing your own vegetables, this topic moves across the breadth of sustainability to include key issues such as the saving and cleaning of water. The addition of Ben Mayo to the sustainability team has been a triumph, as Ben is an experienced outdoorsman, specialising in the art of bushcraft (whittling, survival) and the children have loved every minute of this key area of their learning.

## New Heating System

Our school has been lucky enough, thanks to efforts from Steve Carpenter & Clive Thomas at Shropshire Council, to win grant funding to upgrade the heating system in the demountable classrooms.

The New heating & cooling system has been fully designed by Mitsubishi and will be installed over the summer holidays. This is the biggest thing we can do to improve our carbon footprint. As a result, the planned canopy to provide a covered walkway from class 3 to class 1 has been put on hold but will hopefully be installed in the autumn.

## Sports day

Again we were lucky with the weather – it wasn't too hot and it didn't rain either. We were joined by many children's families, and we all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon on the top field (reaching the top was a feat all on its own!). A few of us parents volunteered to be on the finish line to award the children with their achievement stickers, staying with the theme of the Olympics' gold, silver, bronze and "well done". Oh my, what a close call on a few of the races! I think next year we will need to invest in some finishing line technology for some photo finishes!

All of the children pushed themselves to the finishing line, and, fast or slow, everyone was cheered on until they crossed the line. Aunty Pat and Wendy also earned a gold sticker for their much needed drink and ice lolly break half way through the race schedule. Another well organised sports day by Mr Patch.

## Curriculum Committee

Curriculum continues to flood mercilessly throughout the school, from Maths and English through to local curriculum activities and theatrical productions. The art of teaching and learning here at our school is one of whole school 'creativity and learning'.

Collaborative working alongside other schools has featured fairly prominently the last few terms, seeing some of our children mixing with other schools, seeing how other schools compare in behaviour, discipline and effort. As always, our children have shone. Their own perceptions of themselves and their school reflected in their conversation and actions (they felt they stood above the others in their behaviour and manners and were very proud of themselves). Hurrah!

Ms. Morgan has had a firm objective in mind over the course of this last term, namely that of 'writing' across the whole school. All teachers have been modelling 'what good writing is...'; 'how do you start a good letter', editing and 'what makes good writing'? Peer assessment is encouraged as another way of pupils working on and taking ownership of their writing.



Curriculum Governors have spent time looking through a selection of pupils work this term and have observed handwriting skills and the nature of their writing; paragraphs, capital letters, content and spelling. General consensus is that writing is of a high standard, with pupils working hard to do well.

Pupils are encouraged to utilise their writing skills in areas around school such as instruction writing, prayers for assembly and report writing. Progress can be seen across the school.

This term, all governors spent an afternoon walking the school premises and looking around the classrooms to get an up to date feel for the school, the atmosphere and its learning culture. We watched children in their learning environment, identified British 'culture' and 'values' walls and were very impressed with the Christian ethos underpinning it all. School felt a happy, cohesive, individual and strong place to be. The children were confident, interested and energetic. They listened and observed well and were keen to be busy! A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon albeit with a serious undertone as the business of governance is also an important one.

Finally may we thank Mr Patch for his 'deputy head' and full-time commitment... and wish him a wonderful '2 day a week' retirement! Enjoy your long weekends, the class will be in safe hands with Mrs Hardaker.

**Good luck to our Year 6 leavers  
and wishing you all a great summer holiday.**