



Dear Parents & Carers,

A Message from your Chair of Governors

As we reach the Easter break, I thought it would be useful to provide you with some information about our governing body and a brief update on our work this term.

Kirkby And Great Broughton VA Primary School Governing Body

The role of the governing body is to help set the strategic vision and direction of a school; to support and challenge the headteacher on educational performance; and to ensure the school's finances are well managed. School governors have legal duties, powers and responsibilities. They can only act together; they cannot act individually.

At Kirkby & Great Broughton Primary School, the governing body comprises fourteen governors: the headteacher, eight foundation governors (appointed by the Diocese of York), two elected parent governors, one LA governor (appointed by North Yorkshire County Council), a co-opted governor and one staff governor. We are fortunate that our governors bring a wealth of experience to our school ranging from skills in finance, business and education to links with the church and the community.

You can find more information about our governing body on the school website by visiting:

<https://kirkbyandgreatbroughtonschool.co.uk/staff/governors/>

Governor Vacancy

There is currently a vacancy for a Foundation governor. Foundation governors are appointed by the Diocese of York and alongside the statutory duties of governance have a special role to help to ensure that the Christian character of the school is preserved. If you would be interested in becoming a Foundation governor or know a member of the local community who would be interested in this role, please speak to Mrs McCormick or Reverend Anne Heading.

Governor Activities this term

In addition to two full governor meetings and a meeting of the provisions sub-committee, this has been a busy term for governor monitoring covering a wide range of areas in school. Most of our visits to school include meeting with staff and talking to children. Brief reports are written after visits and are shared and discussed at governor meetings to ensure that any actions are followed up.

Monitoring the Curriculum

Staff in school have been working hard on continuing to develop the curriculum to provide the best possible opportunities for the children at Kirkby and Great Broughton School and I'm pleased to say that governor visits have seen the evidence of this. Governors have met with subject leaders for Maths, Early Reading, RE, Computing, Geography and Music as well as visiting Early Years and conducting a learning walk with the head teacher focussing on learning environments. Through these visits, governors are able to check that school policies are being implemented.

Monitoring of Safeguarding

Ensuring that the highest possible standards of safeguarding are maintained and statutory duties of school are fully met is a key responsibility of the governing body and one which we take very seriously.

This term, two governors have worked with Mrs McCormick to complete a very comprehensive North Yorkshire Safeguarding Audit covering all aspects of school life from child protection and security of the site to staff training. I'm pleased to report that the completed audit reflects the priority that is given to safeguarding by everyone in school and almost all the minor actions identified have already been addressed.

Although all governor visits include safeguarding, some visits have had a specific safeguarding focus including a visit at lunchtimes to talk to children about how safe they feel and to look at supervision. There has been a safeguarding learning walk with the headteacher and a governor and other governors have also talked to children about safeguarding and British Values. I'm delighted to report that the children are positive about safeguarding in school and do feel safe. They can also talk confidently about who they would go to if they had a concern. One of our governors has also attended a session for the Anti Bullying Ambassadors run by the Diana Foundation on behalf of the DfE for a small group of KS2 children; we look forward to hearing how this project progresses.

School Community

As a governing body, we are keen to gather the views of stakeholders and the wider community and this term, we have been able to attend the online Parent's Forum in January which was very positive and also three of our governors have met parents at morning drop off.

Governor Responsibility for School Finances

Although the governors discuss the finances of school at every meeting, this term brings an additional task in the completion of the Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS) with the headteacher. The document is issued by the Department for Education.

The SFVS helps to provide schools with assurance that they are meeting the basic standards necessary to achieve a good level of financial health and resource management.

The SFVS checklist asks a number of questions of governing bodies in six areas of resource management to provide assurance that the school is managing its resources effectively. This can be used to identify possible areas for change to ensure that resources are being used to secure the best education outcomes for pupils.

The governing body is able to report that high standards of financial practice are being maintained by the school and resources are managed effectively.

I hope this provides a useful overview of the work of the governing body this term. As governors, we work closely with Mrs McCormick and the school staff and have seen at first-hand how hard the staff work to provide the best possible education for all the children at Kirkby and Great Broughton School. I am sure you will join with me in thanking all the staff for their professionalism and hard work and wish them a relaxing Easter break.

If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter or any aspect of the work of governors, please do contact me via the school office or email:
sbrooks@kirkby-in-cleveland.n-yorks.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Sue Brooks
Chair of Governors