



Board of Governors

- Alison Cook, Chair
- Gordon Danks, Vice Chair
- Kate Gemmell, Head Teacher
- Sue Firth, Clerk
- John Brierley
- Jen Chapman
- Elaine Bull
- Nick Baynes
- Dominic Hewins
- Demelza Whitbread
- Justin Howell

You will be able to find a comprehensive list of governors and their specific responsibilities and skills on the website, although these are currently being updated and will be amended. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions, please contact the school office (the address is at the foot of this newsletter).

Bamford Primary School Board of Governors Newsletter

October 2016

Welcome to the first Board of Governors Parents Newsletter and to the new academic year. It's always great to see the hustle and bustle of the children returning to school after the summer holidays, and we especially welcome all our new starters.

Key stage results

The school has received the Key Stage results for EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Mrs Gemmell, the teaching staff and the Governors are currently scrutinising these in the light of the new benchmarking standards, and will update the school's action plan for the coming year accordingly.

Playpod® and creative learning through play

Staff worked hard last year to cultivate an exciting, creative learning environment for our children. We will shortly be publishing a feature about the school in the local press, promoting our creative and interactive approach to teaching and developing the softer skills children need to be happy and succeed. The innovative 'Playpod', Forest Schools, Nurture (Jungle Group) and other extra curricula activities all help to increase the children's self-confidence and esteem, communication skills and ownership. The Playpod, which has been funded by the Big Lottery Fund, came about because the school listened to the children's views about lunchtime play. The children love it and the creative play opportunities it presents, and it will continue to be replenished every half term with children invited to make requests.

NSPCC; Speak Out, Stay Safe

Talks from external organisations help us to deliver our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. This year, we are lucky enough to have already had a visit from the NSPCC as part of their 'Speak out, Stay safe' programme. The programme provides children with information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and encourages them to speak out if they have any concerns or worries.

School Policies

School Policies are constantly updated throughout the annual cycle of School Governance and up-to-date copies of our policies are always available on the school website. Recent updates include the School Behaviour Policy, child Protection Policy and Separated Parents Policy.

School Website

We are currently reviewing information on the school website. Beyond the statutory requirements, we are free to include additional information, so if you have any ideas about how to improve it, please email Sue Firth at info@bamford.derbyshire.sch.uk. It will also be up for discussion at our next Parent Forum Meeting; date to follow shortly. Of course, we would warmly welcome the support of anyone with particular website development skills!

PTFA

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the school PTFA. They enable the school to deliver valuable learning activities, such as specialist music tuition, contributions to Forest Schools and the Let's Get Cooking initiatives. In recent years, PTFA funds have paid for guided reading books, computer equipment, the texting service to keep parents informed, school discos, leaver gifts, Christmas gifts and specialist Craft Workshops. These all help provide the children with opportunities to broaden their academic and personal development. The PTFA only meets three times a year but members work throughout the year as much as they are able on various fund-raising and fun activities. There is a real risk that the PTFA will close without new members and we desperately need your help to continue this vital work. Please do get in touch with Sue Firth in the School office if you think you can contribute just a little of your time.

Future Newsletters

We intend to develop the newsletter, which I hope you will find interesting. Governors will contribute their observations from support visits to the school to help keep you informed. We would welcome your comments so please contact Sue Firth in the administration office if you would like to provide feedback, raise any enquiries or items for future letters.

As the Autumn break approaches, I'd like to wish you all a relaxing break.

Very best wishes

Alison Cook

Chair, and on behalf of the Board of Governors

Parent Governor Elections

The Board would like to thank Nick Baynes for all his hard work in support of the School and his representation on the Board of Governors. His support over the years has been greatly appreciated and he'll be missed. Thanks Nick.

Nick will be standing down shortly from his elected role as Parent Governor and Sue will be emailing all parents asking for new parent nominations. If anyone is interested becoming a member of the Board and would like an informal chat, please contact Sue and we can arrange a chat over coffee.

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