

Governor News

Welcome to the Autumn 2019 Governors' Newsletter

As chair of governors I would like to extend a warm welcome all the children and families who are new to the school and to welcome back our existing children and families. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome new staff to the school including two new members of teaching staff– Mrs Lindsay Graystone and Mrs Beth Prihar. Finally a big welcome to our preschool children and staff who are now formally under the governance of our school.

Sue van Hout (Chair)



The new classroom for year 2 in what was the after school club room

Doing the double!

Last summer term saw our school experience not one, but two inspections. Staff, pupils, parents and Governors input into the Ofsted inspection which came first on 9th April. The inspector confirmed that our school continues to be classified as good, providing a 'good quality of education'. She went on to comment on the 'strong team of staff who are proud to work at this school' and said that the school has a 'vibrant and inclusive environment in which pupils feel valued and safe'.

Hard on the heels of the Ofsted inspector, the SIAMS inspector arrived on 23rd May. All Anglican and Methodist schools are subject to SIAMS inspections, which focus on the impact of the school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. It was an especially busy week in school, including the Year 6 class being away on their residential trip, but undeterred, the staff and pupils showed the school at its best, resulting in an overall good assessment. These two ratings are the product of sustained focus by all of the school community and are a great achievement. What was even more pleasing than the ratings were the reports provided and the spirit of the visits themselves, which were positive and recognised the hard work and dedication shown by our staff team and children alike. Following the useful feedback from the reports, areas of focus will continue to be ensuring that:

recent approaches to mathematics and writing are embedded, so that the proportion of pupils attaining the higher standards by the end of key stage 2 increases. This will include a focus on spelling patterns and improving pupil's presentation and accuracy of writing and; RE provision is sufficiently challenging and provides opportunities to develop pupils' wider understanding of diversity within and beyond Christianity.

The reports are on the school website should you like to read them in full.

Class Structure Changes

Over the last few years the school has seen a reduction in pupil numbers mainly due to a dip in the birth rate in the region. In addition most of you will be aware that over the past few years there has been a shortfall in real terms in the funding allocated to schools. Finances are tight. As a result the governing body has had to consider how best to make reductions in school expenditure whilst minimising the impact of teaching and quality of education. The result of this deliberation is that years 3 and year 4 (which are both significantly smaller in pupil number than the UK average for primary schools) have been partially combined so that for 1.5 days a week they will be taught together. A considerable amount of discussion and planning has gone into this decision and School governors will play a role in closely monitoring the quality of teaching and the progress of the children to ensure they make the best progress they can as they move through the school.

Parking Survey

The school Road Safety Team (consisting of governors parents and staff) have been overwhelmed by responses to the safety and parking questionnaire received during the summer term. Results are still being collated, and it is fair to say there are some strong views relating to access, parking and safety on the roads surrounding the school. Some fantastic ideas have been generated and the Road Safety Team look forward to presenting these to parents, pupils and residents of Shipton in the next few weeks together with an action plan to follow up and liaise with the Parish Council.

Well Done

Staff and pupils have worked hard this year and have been rewarded in terms of academic achievement in the national tests for KS 1 and KS2. Results were strong across all core areas (reading, writing and maths) in KS1 and particularly in reading and maths in KS2. Attainment for children with SEN or from disadvantaged backgrounds was above average. It is particularly pleasing to see the math initiatives that have been put in place across the school over the past few years come to fruition. Writing is currently a school development priority and maths will continue to be a focus. Governors will work with the school leadership team to interpret these test data and look at the progress of pupils from when they joined Forest of Galtres to when they left. They will also look at the data from in year tests for all year groups in to help identify opportunities for further improvement in progress and attainment for all children.

Well done to all our children and staff.

School performance data in the national tests is available on the website.

Thank you and goodbye to Mrs Willis who left at the end of the summer term after teaching at Forest of Galtres for over 20 years. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Also a **big thank you** to the Friends of Forest of Galtres for the energy and goodwill of their fundraising throughout the year. The results of their activities are very much appreciated.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Governors are often in school and are happy to say hello and chat with families. Their photographs are on display in the school hall which may help you to spot them “in the wild”.

'Rooted and grounded in love' (Ephesians 3:17)



Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist
Primary School
Station Lane
Sipton by Beningbrough
York YO30 1AG



YOUR SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Allyson Buckton – Headteacher
Tracy Evans – parent governor
Andrew Foster – foundation governor
Trevor Gant – foundation governor
Susan van Hout – Trust appointed governor and Chair
Steve Popplewell – Trust appointed governor and vice chair
Hannah Rawcliffe – Staff governor
Gemma Sutton – Trust appointed governor
Joanne Weatherill – parent governor and chair of teaching and learning committee

Getting in touch...

In person: pop into chat with your child's class teacher or make an appointment at a mutually agreed time.

Phone: 01904 470272

Email: admin@forestgaltres.n-yorks.sch.uk

Text: If we have your mobile number, we can keep you up to date on important information and dates via text.

Website: with information about the Governors, terms date, lunch menus, school trips, after school club, school newsletter, OFSTED reports as well pictures of school activities. There is also a parent's area where you can leave feedback.