

The Governor

July 2015

Welcome to the last newsletter from your Governors this academic year. We have been a little irregular with our newsletters but we plan to rectify this by the appointment of a governor with special responsibility for communications in the next academic year.

A HUGE thank you...

To four of our governors who have come to the end of their terms and who have decided to stand down at the end of this school year:

Annette Atkinson (who is coming to the end of her current term but who has already served two terms on previous Governing Bodies at the school!) and Hannah Boardman. Both Annette and Hannah have been active staff governors who have dedicated many additional hours to the Governing Body and given us all a very insightful perspective on the school which is invaluable in informing our work.

Darren Spence has served on the Governing Body for four years and has had responsibility for Special Educational Needs where he has liaised with our SENDCO, Gillian Collin, and has overseen with her the development of the school's local offer for SEN. He has also been a stalwart on the Finance Committee where his accounting skills have been indispensable.

Sheila Watson has been with us for eight years and has expertly chaired the Curriculum & Standards Committee. She has ensured that the monitoring and evaluation of the school's quality of teaching and learning is incredibly robust with her deep knowledge of the school's data and her incisive questioning skills.

We are very grateful to Annette, Hannah, Darren and Sheila for their hard work and complete dedication to the school – the Governing Body will really miss you.

Reconstitution of the Governing Body...

Following changes to Government regulations, all Governing Bodies have been made to reconstitute. We saw this as an opportune moment to review the structure of our governing body and streamline our ways of working.

Haringey have now approved our proposals for reconstitution and we adopted them officially at our last full Governing Body meeting on 30 June. This has meant that we have reduced the number of governors to eleven, and the number of committees to two – Resources and Curriculum & Standards. Nikki is the new chair of the Curriculum & Standards Committee; Dan is the new chair of the Resources Committee.

The Governing Body now comprises:

Staff Governors (1)

Suzy Fotheringham

Headteacher (1)

James Wiltshire

Co-opted Governors (4)

Nilesh Goswani

Simon Wantman

Victoria Powell

Carey Miller

Local Authority Governors (1)

Michael Cunningham

Parent Governors (4)

Nikki Blain

Jessica Rosenfield

Dan Salem

Vacancy

Associate Members (no voting rights)

Sarah Gray

Iain Kennedy

Sarah (chair) and Iain (vice-chair) have both decided to stand down from their roles. They have been a most excellent team and have given freely of their time to help the School over many years now. We are delighted that Simon Wantman has been elected as our new Chair of Governors and he writes a letter of introduction to you below.

Message from James Wiltshire, Headteacher:

I would like to thank Sarah and Iain for their time, patience and the support they have offered throughout my time at Muswell Hill Primary. Sarah and Iain have been the most inspirational team to work with and their care for the children is utterly exceptional.

I am really looking forward to working with Simon Wantman in his new position as Chair of Governors. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Simon over the past two years and know that we share the same vision for the school.

Message from Simon, our new Chair of Governors...

Dear Parents and Carers,

As detailed overleaf, the Governing Body of MHPS has recently undergone some changes, and it is my privilege to introduce myself to you as the new Chair.

I have lived in Muswell Hill for 11 years and have 2 children at the school.

Our team of Governors are all volunteers from various backgrounds, but will always include staff, parents and local authority representatives. We aim to:

- provide support to the school and Headteacher
- make sure that our school's performance is evaluated and continuously improves
- provide and maintain the strategic direction for the school
- ensure our school's legal obligations are met.

We see our school as a community, and it is important that as parents and carers, you feel involved in school life. A good relationship between school and home is a central tenet of our school ethos, helping to build your child's confidence and assist in their development at school.

Our school ethos is founded in the notion that children will experience the joy of learning and discovery in an environment of respect where diversity is celebrated. We are immensely proud of our academic success, but we recognise that education is about so much more than the final grades our children achieve. The children at our school have a happy, safe and caring environment in which to learn, and we aim to make our children confident, sensitive to others, interested in the world around them and well prepared for life at secondary school.

If you have any questions about the governing body we would be delighted to hear from you and I'm very much looking forward to meeting and working with many of you in the years ahead.

If you would like to contact the governing body, please email the school office office@muswellhillprimary.co.uk who will forward your details to us.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to officially extend our thanks and deep gratitude to Sarah Gray and Iain Kennedy. Sarah and Iain have selflessly dedicated a combined total of in excess of 18 years to the governing body at MHPS. They have been instrumental in the highly effective leadership of the governing body and have steered our school through a number of significant events, including head teacher succession. Sarah and Iain have operated discreetly; shunning the limelight, however there is no doubting the significance of their contribution. I am delighted that they have agreed to remain active on the governing body as Associate Members, and I look forward to an ongoing collaboration with them.

Simon Wantman

What to expect in September ...

A huge amount, it will be a busy month ...

1. Thank you to all who completed the school survey and who gave us some very useful feedback on various aspects of the school. We will share in the new school year. We are evaluating the results at the moment and they will help inform our next School Improvement Plan.
2. SATs. We have received our provisional results from the recent SATs; sadly there is still a huge amount of number crunching to be done before we can publish them. We will give you a detailed breakdown in September but for now we would just like to thank the children, the teachers and all the support staff for working so hard to produce what look like being excellent results.
3. More information and detail on our bid for significant investment into the fabric of our buildings. Please see the separate note.
4. The school has successfully implemented changes to our broad and balanced curriculum - there will be more information in September. In addition there are changes to the way that we are asked to measure the learning of our children and these too will be explained more fully in new academic year.

Finally...

Sarah and Iain would like to thank all the governors, school staff and parents/carers for their support over the years: 'Muswell Hill Primary is a very special place and we have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the community in the chair/vice chair roles. We are delighted to be staying on in transition roles for a little longer.'

All governors wish you a very happy summer and look forward to seeing you all again in September.