

# The Governor

November 2013

Welcome to the first newsletter from your Governors this academic year. We publish a newsletter at least once each term to keep you updated on news and debates.

**A reminder...** The Governing Body comprises seventeen people who represent the local authority, our community, parents at the school and all levels of the staff.

<p><b>Staff Governors (4)</b>            James Wiltshire (Head Teacher)            Rosie O'Donnell (teacher) (09-03-2014)            Annette Atkinson (support) (13-11-2015)            Vacancy</p>	<p><b>Parent Governors (6)</b>            Sarah Gray (04-07-2014) (Chair)            Simon Wantman (06-12-2015)  <i>[Ellis and Lily in Green and Orange Classes]</i>            Darren Spence (06-12-2015)  <i>[Kate in Indigo Class]</i>            Nikki Blain (17-12-2016)  <i>[Lola in Gold Class]</i>            Vacancy            Vacancy</p>
<p><b>Local Authority Governors (3)</b>            Victoria Powell (09-09-2016)            Michael Cunningham (19-11-2016)            Vacancy</p>	<p>(Date = end of term as Governor)</p>
<p><b>Community Governors (4)</b>            Hinal Patel (23-03-2014)            Nilesh Goswami (15-05-2015)            Sheila Watson (01-12-2016)            Iain Kennedy (22-06-2017)(Vice Chair)</p>	

## Our latest meeting...

We had a packed agenda for our latest meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup> and the main areas of business were:

1. Ratifying several finance policies for the school as well as the school's pay policy.
2. Approving how we spend the Pupil Premium income we receive and reviewing the effectiveness of that spend. This document is now on the school website [under Pupil Premium in the About Us section]
3. Discussing the school's Special Education Needs report and looking at what changes will be required to continue to improve on this. In addition we also debated the impact of future changes that are being made by central Government in this area.
4. Reviewing the draft School Plan for 2014 that defines our work throughout the year. This plan has been built from your feedback via the parent /carer questionnaire at the end of last term as well as feedback from many of you to James at his Parent Consultation sessions earlier in the term. A final version will be approved and published on the website in the New Year.

## Our Committees...

Much of our Governing Body work is conducted in committees. If you have a point of view on any of these please contact the relevant Chair through the school office. Our committees are:

**Finance Committee:** Nilesh Goswami [Chair], Iain Kennedy, Darren Spence, James Wiltshire (HT), Victoria Powell, and the Chair of the Human Resources and Staff Development Committee (Hinal Patel)

**Health and Safety/Premises Committee:** Simon Wantman [Chair], Sarah Gray, Iain Kennedy, James Wiltshire (HT), and Michael Cunningham

**Curriculum and Standards Committee:** Sheila Watson [Chair], Hinal Patel, Sarah Gray, Rosie O'Donnell, James Wiltshire (HT) and Nikki Blain

**Community Cohesion:** Sarah Gray [Chair], Sheila Watson, Helen Hattersley (Deputy Headteacher – Ex Officio), Darren Spence, Annette Atkinson, Victoria Powell, Michael Cunningham, Nikki Blain and James Wiltshire (HT)

**Human Resources and Staff Development Committee:** Hinal Patel [Chair], Sarah Gray, Annette Atkinson, Nilesh Goswami (Chair of the Finance Committee), James Wiltshire (HT) and Michael Cunningham

**SEN Working Group:** Darren Spence [Chair], Sarah Gray, Michael Cunningham, Victoria Powell, Gillian Collin (SEN coordinator, Ex Officio)

**Pay Committee (Inc Headteacher's Performance Management) –** Iain Kennedy [Chair], Hinal Patel and Nilesh Goswani

## *New recruits needed...*

It is traditional at this time of year that we have a few vacancies in the Governing Body. David Howes has decided to step down as teacher governor because of work commitments (he is our acting Literacy Co-ordinator whilst Roz Szcowska is on maternity leave), thanks to David for his brief but valuable work with us. Likewise, Brenda Allan, one of our highly valued Local Authority Governors is also leaving us because of work commitments, she will be sorely missed and the Local Authority is seeking her replacement.

We also have two parent governor vacancies. Being a governor is incredibly interesting but it does carry a time and work commitment. There are five/six full Governing Body meetings a year (they always start at 6.30pm and last for 2 or 3 hours). In addition governors are encouraged to sit on at least two committees. Our committees [detailed above] are where all the work usually resides. They meet between three and six times a year and these meetings are usually at 8.00am or 3.30pm for an hour or so.

We have identified a particular need for a governor to work on the Premises and Health and Safety Committee; someone who has an interest or skill relating to the school environment would be ideal, this committee has a large remit and Simon who is the Chair of the Committee needs some more members to help.

If you are interested in joining us or wish to talk to a Governor please let us know via the School Office. In the event of several parents being interested in the positions we will need to arrange a whole school election and we will notify prospective parent governors accordingly.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## *Finally...*

### **Keeping Your Child Safe Online**

We have attached some notes written for us by Victoria Powell, one of our LA governors, who has particular expertise in this area, about Keeping Your Child Safe Online. These notes are also on the school website and can be found by clicking on About Us - Curriculum - Keeping Your Child Safe Online. We recommend that all parents read this and follow the links for really practical information on this pertinent and important issue.

### **BBC Filming in the Breakfast Club**

On 20<sup>th</sup> November the BBC filmed the Breakfast Club as part of a training programme for BBC trainee correspondents to learn how to interact with children when interviewing. Muswell Hill Primary School was chosen for this on the basis of having a vibrant website! It was a great opportunity to show the healthy food that is offered at breakfast club as well as the positive interactions between staff and pupils. The children were articulate as they were filmed and were a real credit to their parents and the school. The learning that goes on in the Breakfast Club is a really positive extension of the school day. Once the video has been edited and approved by the school it will go on the website so that parents and prospective parents can see the exciting learning opportunities that exist at MHPS early in the morning!

**Don't forget the Michael Rosen and Julie Cole event on Wednesday 11 December – it's sold out at 4pm but there are still tickets left for the 5.30pm show. Please see the school website for more details.**