



Blean Primary School

'Learning together to enjoy and achieve'

Governor Newsletter Christmas 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the Governor Newsletter. Since the last Newsletter we have been delighted to welcome in a new Reception Year group of children.

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all children for their hard work and to their Parents/Carers for the support that they give.

We would also like to thank all of the staff for their hard work and dedication during the year.

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

NEWS:

Teaching School

As you will know the school was awarded this status in the summer. We are delighted that this recognises the excellent work that is undertaken by the team at Blean. Naturally a great deal of planning now takes place as to how this status will be implemented and we look forward to sharing in due course the progress made and the benefits to the School.

University of Kent

As Parents/Carers may be aware, the University has created a long term Masterplan. A document has recently been issued reporting on the first stage of the consultation. Part of this document refers to the location of the school and quotes comments made by local residents. Please be assured that there are no plans to move the school site to a different location at the current time. In fact neither the school nor Governors have been approached.

Volunteers

Lots of Parents/Carers like to get involved with the school whilst their children attend. There are a number of ways that you can get involved:

- **Readers** – assisting children with reading on a regular basis (please note that you cannot assist with your Child's class).
- **Library** – The School has built up a well-stocked library for the children and we would welcome offers of help with this valuable resource.
- **School Trips** – You must have a Blean School DBS.
- **PTFA** - The PTFA put on a number of events during the year which are always enjoyed by all. If you are able to give any of your time to any event it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Mrs Anna Amos, Chair of the PTFA, on ptfa@blean.kent.sch.uk

Please refer to the Volunteer Policy and Agreement on the school website www.bleanprimary.org.uk which includes information about DBS checks. This can be found on the School Information tab – Policies.

A lot of employers now give up to two days additional holiday for volunteering. What a great way to spend that time supporting your child's school.



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The Governors would like to thank all of the volunteers who come into school. The time and energy that you give is very much appreciated by everyone involved. Without your support some of the wonderful things that the school does would not be able to be delivered.

Governor Minutes

Once they have been ratified, minutes will be available to view on the School website. Please note that when we have a meeting it may be a couple of months before the next meeting for them to be ratified. The information is under the School Information tab – Governor Minutes.

Governor Activity

New Structure for the Governing Body:

Blean School is going through a period of change as we pursue the benefits of our Teaching School designation. Our Governing Body is also changing, instead of having a single Vice Chair, the Governing Body will have two. These Vice Chairs will be the Chairs of the two committees: Learning and Development and Resources. This new structure for the Governing Body balances the Governors' responsibilities and work and supports succession planning.

These changes are important to ensure that the school is providing the best possible education for its pupils, and ensuring that the financial constraints are appropriately adhered to.

The new structure for the Governing Body for 2017-2018 is:

Chair of Governors: Hugh Samuelson

Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of Resources Committee: Kirstie Willerton

Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of Learning and Development Committee: Rogério de Lemos

Vice Chair of Resources Committee: Shabana Robertson

Vice Chair of Learning and Development Committee: Dewi Watson

Governor Visits:

Governors have undertaken a number of visits. Some examples are:

Health and Safety: This included making sure the school is up to date with all aspects and observing a very well conducted (planned) Fire Drill. The children should be proud of the way they left the school in such an orderly manner especially for Year R for whom this is a new operation.



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Link Governors: Each governor has been allocated a Year Group. This is not to replace any current communication channels, all initial queries should be made to the class teacher. Governors do, however, visit school events and classroom activities – it's a great way of seeing the hard work that children put in. A number of visits have taken place this year. The link Governors this year are:

Year R	Mr Hugh Samuelson
Year 1	Mrs Shabana Robertson
Year 2	Mrs Kirstie Willerton
Year 3	Mr Guy Gardener
Year 4	Mr Rogerio de Lemos
Year 5	Ms Dewi Watson
Year 6	Mr Henk-Jann Schuurung

Safeguarding: Each year the School and Governing Body undertake a Safeguarding Audit to ensure that all the necessary Policies and Procedures are in place. I am delighted to say that a complete 'clean bill of health' was received. The Senior Leadership Team and one Governor have received training in relation to Safer Recruitment.

EYFS: As parents with Children in EYFS will be aware, there have been a lot of changes over the summer and during the first part of the year. The team, led by Mrs Hollingworth, is carrying out great work both with the environment and also quality of teaching. Governors were able to witness this first-hand during a recent visit

Governor Training

As part of our ongoing development as Governors we undertake a variety of training. This enables us to keep up to date with changes and therefore support the school accordingly. Recent examples of this have been:

School Data: The Government have, over the last year, replaced the old RAISE-on-Line with a new format of results. Governors, along with staff, recently attended a briefing from an external Consultant who has analysed the data received. This proves invaluable to all and really helps the School in relation to the measurement of the progress that children make together with performance in SATS tests.

Prevent Training: The subject of Radicalisation in schools is regularly in the news. As Governors we have to be aware of this and the signs to look for.



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Other courses attended:

Responsibilities of the Governing Body in Pupil Discipline
Head Teacher Appraisal
Managing Parental Complaints
Governors' Duties in Regard to Ensuring Racism is Being Addressed in Schools
The Equality Act 2010: Governors' Responsibilities

As you can see the role of a School Governor is in-depth and I would like to extend personal thanks to Governors for the time that they have given and for the hard work put in, all of which is on a voluntary basis.

Mr Hugh Samuelson
Chair of Governors