



GOVERNOR BULLETIN

ISSUE 1 SEPTEMBER 2018

Governors	Roles	Type	Terms of Office
Peter Parkin-Child	Chair	Parent	01/09/2015 - 31/08/2019
Deborah Finney	Vice-Chair	Foundation	01/09/2015 - 31/08/2019
Jessica McFarlane	Safeguarding, Anti - bullying & PREVENT link	Co-opted	25/09/2018 – 24/09/2022
Cilla Hollman	EYFS link	Co-opted	01/09/2015 – 31/08/2019
Roger Wilkinson	Health & Safety link	Local Authority	25/09/2017 – 24/09/2021
Rev. Norman Shaw	Church link	Ex-officio foundation	01/09/2016 -
Michelle Massey	Pupil Premium & SEND link	Parent	30/01/2018 – 29/01/2022
Esther Bland	Headteacher	Staff	01/09/2018 -
Kellie Wilson	Deputy Headteacher	Co-opted	26/09/2017 – 25/09/2021
Jill Ford		Staff	18/09/2018 – 17/09/2022
Vacant		Parent	
Vacant		Parent	

Welcome to our first Governor Bulletin!

As recently appointed Chair of Governors, one of my aims is to issue a Governor Bulletin at the end of each term. Hopefully this will give you some insight into what our role as a governor is within the school, as well as updating you on the issues we get involved with. But, most importantly, I want these bulletins to reinforce that we, as a Governing Body, are here to work with all those who have a vested interest in the success of Dukes – and so please feel free to stop and chat to us when you see us around and about.

Now I know we've only just started the new school year, and so technically this bulletin is a whole term early; but I have to start somewhere, and a lot has happened in recent months that I'd like to bring you up to speed with. We had our first meeting last Tuesday, and we had certainly had plenty to discuss!

But before that, I'd like to thank our outgoing Chair, **Rebecca Silcock**, for all her hard work this past year. As you will all be aware, it's been an eventful year (to say the least) and Rebecca has led the governors through challenges including the actions required from our Ofsted Report (more on that later) and replacing Mrs Montgomery with our new Headteacher, Mrs Bland (more on that later too). We are sad to see Rebecca go, and I will try to live up to her standards of organisation and calmness!

So, what do Governors do?

The Governing Body is made up of a mixture of volunteers - parents, staff, church and local authority representatives. We meet as a Full Governing Body (FGB) six times a year and these meetings usually take place after key school data become available. Our aim is to work closely with the Headteacher to raise standards and make sure the school provides a good quality education. We do not manage the day to day running of the school - we help shape its focus and direction. We ensure accountability to parents, staff and others for the school's overall performance, support the Head and staff, as well as offer constructive challenge.

New Headteacher

As you will be aware, we appointed Mrs Bland as our new Headteacher; and we were thrilled when she was able to start at the beginning of the new school year. It would be an understatement to say that she has made an immediate and positive impact on the school, and you may already have spotted improvements already. Our thanks go to Mrs Bland, Miss Wilson and their supportive staff teams for weeks spent clearing, organising and decorating the school over their summer break.

In addition, Mrs Bland has identified the need to reconfigure some areas of the school; with the school hall being an immediate priority. These improvements will help us to accommodate the growth in pupil numbers over the past few years, and so ensure we have appropriate teaching and learning facilities for the children. Whilst this will mean changes occurring over the coming months, we will aim to keep disruption to a minimum.

Out of Hours Provision

Building upon our successful breakfast club, we were happy to approve the plans to extend our Out of School Hours Care provision to include an after-school club. This service will commence from October.

Nursery Provision

At our meeting, Mrs Bland outlined her plans to extend our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to include provision for up to 15 nursery places. The governors were in full support of these plans, and we are now in the process of applying to the Department for Education (DfE) to finalise the plans.

Ofsted Update

Since the publication of our Ofsted report in January, we have been working closely with the senior leadership team to address the issues identified. In particular, we have:

- undertaken an external review of governance to ensure that we, as governors, are effectively both supporting and challenging the leadership team as required;
- reviewed how the school monitors and evidences its spending of pupil premium;
- produced improvement plans for all key areas of the curriculum to ensure staff have the opportunity to define what progress looks like and share best practice;
- introduced a new computerised tracking system so that we can assess and monitor pupil progress with greater accuracy and depth.

Improved Broadband

We were informed during our recent meeting that Dukes has been selected to have fibre broadband installed within the school. Only 100 schools in the country have been selected for this programme run by the Department of Culture, Media & Sport and the DfE, and we will hope to see improved access to web-based resources for our learners/teachers.

PTA Initiatives

As you will be aware, our PTA do a great job in terms of fund-raising for the school and children. We have been made aware of some exciting PTA initiatives that will be coming our way in the near future, such as Skate and Scoot, and you will hopefully be aware that the PTA has extended the Friday toast provision to all year groups (which has been really well received). It is great to see the PTA embracing new events and fundraisers, with a view to improving opportunities and resources; and so keep your eyes peeled for more news on this.

Governor Vacancies

Finally, we have two parent governor posts vacant at present. If you are interested in joining the team and having some input into the strategic direction of the school, I would encourage you to apply. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please contact myself or go via the school office, and I will be happy to talk through in more detail.

Best regards

Peter Parkin-Child
Chair of Governors