



Stoke by Nayland Governors' Newsletter



SPRING TERM 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although it has been a short term there has been a lot of activity at Stoke by Nayland. Thanks to parent volunteers and staff, children have been able to take part in a variety of clubs that began this term including Eco-club, the Allotment club and Tag Rugby. Here's to hoping for an improvement in the weather; only a week ago the heavens opened and the Tag Rugby club found themselves pelted by hail stones minutes after they had stepped outside.

Our school Facebook page is up and running and you may have noticed our advert, school news and photos printed monthly in the LSPN Community News (for Leavenheath, Stoke by Nayland, Polstead & Nayland.) We have been publishing news since last Spring, however, this year more space dedicated to our news combined with the colour advert inviting prospective parents for a personal tour of the school has increased our presence.

What have governors been up to in the Spring Term?

Governors monitor all aspects of the school from teaching and learning to the state of the playing fields. We meet in committees and as a full governing body. During our Spring Term meetings governors have discussed:

- Pupil progress and attainment specifically in reading, maths & writing
- School Development & Ofsted Action Plan– it is now more concise, focusing on 5 objectives
- Pupil Premium and Sports Premium money- how it is spent and the impact it is having. This term, Sports Premium money has paid for items such as tag rugby equipment & Bikeability
- Finance and the budget
- Staff well-being survey results
- Safeguarding and the updated safeguarding policy
- Pupil perceptions of collective worship
- Staffing and maintaining continuity in the teaching of upper years in light of staff illness
- Grounds improvements – The Health, Safety and Premises Committee is gathering quotes to improve the quiet area and play equipment
- Governor monitoring responsibilities and agreed timeframe to make visits

This term governors have undertaken monitoring visits looking specifically at the following areas which directly link to our School Development Plan:

- Raising attainment in Science
- Improving pupil progress and attainment in Mathematics
- Collective worship – What has been learnt from the pupil perception survey?

How have governors raised our school profile in the community?

Last September, governors formed a new Promotions Working Party with the aim of promoting our school to the wider community. We have been developing ways of sharing news in print and social media, have distributed school Christmas cards to local business and have put up laminated school adverts in local shops, pubs and churches. Coming up soon,

one of our Early Years teachers will be visiting local playgroups on behalf of the school and we hope to give a Stoke by Nayland teddy bear to each group.



Governor Profile - Peter Drew

Mr Peter Drew is a long serving, instrumental member of our team. He was recently referred to as our 'Jedi' of Finance and is married to Mrs Ada Drew who you'll see in the office Monday and Tuesday mornings.

How long have you been a governor?

I became a governor on 1st December 2001. Kaye Elliott, the Headteacher, asked me to be a parent governor and then another parent stepped-up, so I stepped back, rather than necessitating a parent election. Shortly afterwards a vacancy arose and I was reeled in.

What are your responsibilities as a governor?

My responsibilities as a governor include chairing the Finance Committee, sitting on the Personnel Committee, Named Safeguarding Governor and I have governor responsibility for Maths and Computing / ICT. In addition I am involved with policy writing and school website maintenance.

What makes our school special?

Our school is special because it is a small school where everyone knows one another. It is a very caring school, the staff know the children and families very well and are able to offer individual support where necessary. Nobody gets lost amongst the masses and no pupil's needs go unnoticed, as might happen in a larger school. The Christian ethos of the school embeds core values in the children and teaches them to care for themselves and for others, as can be witnessed daily in school.

What made you want to become a governor?

Initially I had no inclination to be a governor. I was getting up at 4.40am to commute to London and returning home at 8 or 9pm in the evening. My wife encouraged me to take an interest in my children's education as I was working and away for most of their waking hours during the week. I felt that my background in financial services could be a benefit to the school and I was enjoying a rewarding career and wanted to 'give something back' as they say. I wasn't able to spend much, if any, time in school during the week as I was in London or travelling, but I was able to attend governor meetings and help remotely with policies and other matters.

What do you do when you are not working?

Nowadays my days revolve around training for Winter Sports, I like to be active and outdoors, as well as assisting the school in any way I can.

Find us on Facebook



Mrs McGrath-Wells and parent volunteer Mrs Jessica Walker have created a school Facebook page. Do join us!

The group is called 'Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School.' Recent posts include World Book Day, Bikeability and Eco club.

Governors wish everyone a lovely Easter holiday!