



# Stoke by Nayland Governors' Newsletter



AUTUMN TERM 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the third edition of the Governors' Newsletter. It has been a busy term; Mrs Le Grice, staff and governors have been working hard to drive improvement, building on the progress recognised in last June's SIAMS report raising standards across subjects and, ensuring excellent outcomes for all students.

## The Local Governing Body

Now that we have joined the Diocesan Multi Academy Trust our governing body is referred to as the 'Local Governing Body'. This body retains the right to decide how the school is run at the local level. Governors meet twice a term in full governing body meetings when they receive the Headteacher's report, review pupil progress and attainment, approve updated policies and discuss topics ranging from the budget to the school development plan. Each governor is appointed to monitor and report on a specific aspect of the school. Monitoring visits typically focus on one or two points linked to the Ofsted report and School Development Plan. Governor areas of responsibility include:

Dr Angela Colclough, Foundation Governor	English, Special Education Needs, PSHE,
Mr Peter Drew, Community Governor	Maths, Computing, ICT, Safeguarding
Mrs Vivienne Klimowicz, Chair	Science, Data Assessment
Mrs Kelly McGrath-Wells, Staff Governor	School Improvement, Data, Special Education Needs Link Governor
Ms Mary Ann Villar, Vice-Chair	Early Years, Art, Pupil Premium
Mr Joe Walker, Parent Governor	Modern Foreign Languages, Humanities
Rev Mark Woodrow, Foundation Governor	Collective Worship, Religious Education

Governors are also given specific roles to ensure the governing body fulfils its statutory responsibilities in areas such as Health & Safety, Child Protection and Special Educational Needs. Much of our work is done in subcommittees which report to the full governing body.

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### Committee Membership 2017/2018

**Health, Safety, and Premises Committee Membership:** Joe Walker (Chair), Angela Colclough, Jane Le Grice, Mary Ann Villar

**Finance Committee Membership:** Peter Drew (Chair), Angela Colclough, Brian Langstaff, Jane Le Grice

**Personnel:** Vivienne Klimowicz (Chair), Peter Drew, Jane Le Grice, Rev'd Mark Woodrow

**Pupil Discipline (Statutory):** Vivienne Klimowicz (Chair), Peter Drew, Mary Ann Villar

**Promotions Working Party:** Mary Ann Villar (Chair), Angela Colclough, Jane Le Grice, Kelly McGrath-Wells, Rev'd Mark Woodrow, Jess Walker (parent volunteer)

Just a few weeks ago we welcomed back parent governor Joe Walker who has been away for six months. We managed to catch up with him recently to find out more about his background and interests.



**How long have you been a governor?**

I've been a governor for 18 months with a six month sabbatical while I was deployed by the army in Afghanistan.

**What is your background in education?**

I have a PGCE and a Masters in Education. I was teaching Leadership and Management in the army. I also taught basic military training to new soldiers and officers in the army.

**What makes our school special?**

It's a small, caring village school where all pupils are treated as individuals and are known to all staff. Pupils in different year groups get to know one another and look after each other.

**What made you want to become a governor?**

I wanted to invest in my children's education and development while contributing to the community. I care about the future and continuous development of the school.

**What do you do when you are not working?**

When I'm not working as an officer in the army I enjoy spending time with my family. I enjoy having a go at all sports and adventurous activities. I'm busy with DIY and dog walking.

## Welcome to a New Governor



We welcomed a new foundation governor this term, Dr Angela Colclough. As a foundation governor she will make an important contribution to the school by looking after its Christian character, alongside Rev'd Mark Woodrow. In a short time she has become a familiar sight at the school- she once attended three meetings in one night! Dr Colclough brought up three young children alongside a career in laboratory medicine and management. With her years of experience in science she can see straight to the heart of complicated data sets with laser like precision. She has already become a valued member of the governing body and is an asset to the school.

## Outdoor Play Equipment

There is plenty to get excited about regarding development of our outdoor areas. Some of this year's Sports Premium money has been allocated to improve the school's outdoor apparatus. Mrs Le Grice and the governors are getting ideas for equipment, layout and quotes from companies. Options will be put to the School Council for the children to contribute to the final decision. The development will take place as early as possible in the New Year.

## Working Parties



Governors would like to thank parent volunteers who have been working hard to revitalize the school premises and strengthen links with Rowley Wood. Some hard working parent volunteers helped clear the boundary, sweep the leaves and tidy up the grounds recently. All agreed we'd like to have future working parties. Anyone interested in future working parties please email Jess-- Lizzie and Ted's Mum on [jessicaewalker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jessicaewalker@hotmail.co.uk)

## Rowley Wood

Mrs Annabel Thorogood (Digby and Quintus's mum) and Mrs Jess Walker (Lizzie and Ted's mum) met with Mrs Le Grice and members of the Community Woodland Steering Group last week. After a positive meeting everyone is excited to get started on working together to recreate the school wild garden. This will bring both the woodland to the schoolchildren and serve as a gateway to the larger environment, Rowley Wood, a few hundred yards away.

## Thank you to Mrs Hill

As a parent governor tasked with monitoring Early Years and parent communication and engagement I've worked closely with Mrs Hill, who is the contact for each of those subjects. I know her dedication and concern is evident for all parents to see but I wish every parent could also see how much time and energy she puts into her planning, paperwork and all the things that make a class run smoothly. Mrs Hill constantly strives for improvement, settling for nothing less than the best from herself and her students. We will miss Mrs Hill and wish her the very best in her new school. – *Mary Ann Villar*

## Christmas

A very special "Thank you" to the Friends of the School for organising a festive Christmas Fayre and to all the staff throughout the school for making the children's end of term so meaningful and so much fun.

*We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.*