



Stoke by Nayland Governors' Newsletter



SPRING TERM 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term Governors would like to take a moment to thank all of our staff for their hard work which has given us much to celebrate. Early on in the term we achieved Silver Linguamarque status which recognises our commitment to the learning and teaching of foreign languages and the good standard our pupils are reaching. Our assessor was so impressed that an assessment date for the Gold Linguamarque has already been scheduled. If successful in achieving Linguamarque Gold status, Stoke by Nayland will become a teaching example for other schools. This would be a fantastic achievement.

In January, you may remember that parents and carers were asked to complete a questionnaire. The results were overwhelmingly positive and serve as a testament to the good work of support staff, teachers and the senior leadership team. We received 14 completed questionnaires which represent approximately 31% of our families. Results showed that in the main our parents are happy. There were two areas of concern; some parents commented on homework while others commented on safety concerns centred on the fencing in the front of the school. Governors are pleased to announce that the Health, Safety and Premises Committee has secured three quotes to improve the fencing at the front, raising the height and making it more secure.

A key focus for Governors this term has been the recruitment of a new Headteacher. We will be sharing more information about the newly appointed Head after the Easter holidays.

Parent Questionnaire Results: A breakdown

As mentioned above, parents are generally happy with teaching, leadership, curriculum, behaviour and atmosphere. In terms of school environment **100%** of parents either strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements: 'The school has a happy atmosphere', 'I feel welcome when I come into school', 'my child(ren) enjoy school' and 'the school encourages parents to take an active part in school life'. On the negative side, **29%** of parents disagreed with the statement 'the school site is sufficiently secure.'

With regard to curriculum **100%** of parents strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements: 'My children are making good progress for their ability' and 'My child enjoys 'off timetable' special days (eg languages day, healthy living days, art days).' **93%** of parents either strongly agreed or agreed with the statements: 'The school has sufficiently high expectations of my child', 'My child is well taught', and 'The school provides a good range of extra-curricular clubs and opportunities'. Meanwhile, **64%** strongly agreed or agreed with the statement 'My child gets the right amount of work to do at home for his/her age and stage.'

100% of parents strongly agreed or agreed with all but one of the statements regarding behaviour. **100%** of parents strongly agreed or agreed with the statements: 'My child feels safe and well cared for at school,' 'I understand the school behaviour policy', 'The behaviour of the majority of pupils at the school is generally good', 'The school deals with inappropriate behaviour effectively' and 'The school's values and attitudes have a positive impact on my child.'

86% of parents strongly agreed or agreed with the statement 'If my child has a problem they have the confidence to talk to a member of staff.'

Communication was another area in which results were positive. However, this is where parents responded 'Don't Know' to a few statements. **64%** of our parents responded 'Don't know' to the statement 'The school's Facebook page makes me more aware of school activities.' While **21%** of parents responded 'Don't Know' to the statement 'I know who the parent governors are and how to contact them.' On the positive side **100%** of parents strongly agreed or agreed with the following statements: 'I feel comfortable approaching the staff with questions or a problem', and 'I find the newsletters, website information and letters helpful and informative.' **93%** of parents strongly agreed or agreed with the statement, 'School reports and parent consultations keep me well informed about my child's progress.'



Governor Profile – Mary Ann Villar

What is your background in education?

I have a Masters degree in Education which I gained in America and am a secondary school history teacher. I am currently supply teaching, mainly at Ormiston Academy in Sudbury and will take up a part time post teaching history at Thurstable School in Tiptree after Easter.

What are your responsibilities as a governor?

I serve as Vice Chair of Governors and my responsibilities include chairing the Promotions Working Party which promotes the school within the community. I am the named governor for art, history, Early Years Foundation Stage and communication between parents and the school. I also work with Mrs Le Grice each month to publish school news and photos in the LSPN News which is delivered to every home in Leavenheath, Stoke by Nayland, Polstead and Nayland.

What makes our school special?

Two things: the family feel and commitment to the arts. The staff know the children so well and I've always loved the way older children play with the younger children in the park after school. At my previous school in Essex, children from the upper school were banned from playing with lower school students. There were separate play areas. At our school, children form friendships across age groups and that's really special. In terms of the arts, I never cease to be impressed by the opportunities our students have in art, music and drama. The quality of our school plays is exceptional. I used to think a small school would offer limited opportunity but actually, with small numbers staff can be flexible and can do more. For example, activities like Silver Birch's camping trip in Rev Mark's garden wouldn't happen in a large school.



Easter Greetings

The Promotions Working Party came up with the idea of sending an Easter card out to local businesses. The greenfingers after school gardening club produced beautiful Easter gardens to be featured on the card.

Governors wish everyone a lovely Easter holiday!