



CROWN WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER.

Autumn Term 2009

Welcome to this, the first of a termly newsletter from Crown Wood Primary School Governors. We are going to tell you about what we do and who we are so that together we can work in partnership to provide the best learning opportunities for our children. In each issue we will introduce you to some of the members of the Governing Body. We would really welcome suggestions on future content for our newsletters and we are going to include a question and answer section in future editions. In this issue we will introduce you to who we are and then tell you about our last parent and pupil questionnaire results.

About us:

Crown Wood Primary School has 15 Governors:

5 Parent Governors – (elected by our parents) – Diane Bird, Sarah Eldridge, Rachel Jasper, Lesley Robertson and Gabriella Platon

4 Community Governors - (appointed by the Governing Body representing local knowledge and interests) - John Throssell – Chair of governors, Stephanie Littlejohn plus 2 vacancies)

3 Staff Governors - (elected by the teaching and support staff) Susan Bartlett (automatically appointed as Headteacher), Gillian Greenaway, Ellen Weston)

3 Local Authority Governors - (appointed by Bracknell Forest and Bracknell Town Council) - Jirina Roucka-Brown – Vice Chair, Robert Osborne, Wilf Holness)

We also have **Associate Members** - Hayley Barnes, Carol Stocker and Iain Blagrove who have specific expertise to assist the governors.

Governors are volunteers, but we have a vital role in the strategic leadership of the school. We are responsible for agreeing policies and work in partnership with the Headteacher, all the school staff, Parents, Children and the Local Community to continuously develop the school.

Who we are:

Sarah Eldridge - I have 2 children at Crown Wood Primary School (Rachel in year 6 and James in year 4). I started as a Parent Governor earlier this year and I've already found that being a Governor is a lovely way to get more involved with the school. I started a lunch time club for the children in year 3 last term (this term I am with year 5) and have become the subject Governor for Mathematics, PE and Art. I've worked as a Nurse for 12 years and I also manage an under 10's ice hockey team at Bracknell.

Dr. Jirina Roucka-Brown - I have been a School Governor for Crown Wood Primary School since 2005. I come from the Czech Republic and I have a teaching background at various age levels. Now I am proud to be Vice Chair of your School Governors and the Chair of the Curriculum Committee. I would like to pass on my experience in education to you and Crown Wood Primary School so that I may help it to make it the best School possible.

Questionnaire results

In May we asked all our pupils and parents to complete our 4th annual questionnaire. We really valued your opinions and these helped us to plan for the current year some areas that needed improving. They also allowed us to see where actions resulting from previous questionnaires had been successful. Unfortunately this year only 110 parent questionnaires were received back from parents out of 302 handed out. We considered ways to increase this response, therefore in future we will provide envelopes so that questionnaires can be returned anonymously.

A few Parents also offered to help with running clubs. Thank you to those parents and if you haven't already heard from us we will be contacting you shortly. If you haven't replied but are able to help with a school club we would still love to hear from you, you can contact us via the school office.

Parent results:

The questions with the highest average results were:

“My child has friends at school”

“My child enjoys school” and

“Letters keep me up to date on events and activities”

We are very pleased to see that many of you said that the staff are: friendly, caring, good, supportive, helpful and approachable and that your children are enjoying school as we feel this is an essential part of their success in learning.

The questions with the lowest results were:

“There is a good range of activities for children at lunchtime”

Over the past year we have purchased more outdoor play equipment for the children, however many of you still feel there is not enough available. Due to this question scoring so low we will continue to look at ways to make more equipment available for the children every lunchtime. We will also look at ways to make more activities available. Again, we are always looking for volunteers to help with games.

“Other children’s behaviour is good at school”

Last term we sent home with all the children our new anti-bullying policy after consultation with the Parent Consultative Group (PCG). We want Crown Wood School to have the best possible learning environment and understand that poor behaviour from some children can disturb other children’s learning. We will review our Behaviour Policy together with the PCG this coming year and, along with consistent hard work from all the staff, plus support from the Family Support Advisor and parents, this will help to improve behaviour over the coming year.

“Crown Wood School is regarded highly in the community”

We are constantly trying to raise the profile of the school in the community. Local media are informed about every event; however we have no control over what gets published. We will continue to try to get the school more publicity because we are very proud of everything our pupils do. We also know that you will spread the news about our wonderful events as we know you are also proud of our children.

Many of you asked for more information on how to help your child learn. Last term we also sent home the school’s new Home Learning Policy and booklet on how to help your child again after consultation with the Parent Consultative Group. We held a phonics workshop for parents and during this academic year we are planning to hold a phonics and mathematics workshop. We also sent home a reading with your child information sheet. We are looking at other ways we can help you to support your child’s home learning and will continue to send home each term a curriculum information sheet.

Finally, some of you mentioned that our school website is out of date. Several volunteers have come forward with I.T. knowledge and updating the website will be a major focus for us during the next few months.

Pupil results:

All pupils were asked to fill in a questionnaire during their school day. The pupil questionnaires were similar to the parent questionnaire but were slightly shorter and had a simpler scoring system. Children were also asked what they liked most about the school and what would make the school better. Unfortunately, we will not be able to make the school better by providing a swimming pool, Jacuzzi, kitten or ice cream van as some of the children requested! We have provided more clubs this term as this was a common request from the children.

As the Governing body of Crown Wood Primary School we ask parents to play their role in further developing the school and its image. If any of you want more information from us or would like to offer help or ideas, all our pictures are displayed in the link corridor, some of us attend school events and we can be contacted via the school office.