



CROWN WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER

Spring Term 2010

Welcome to this, the second of our termly School Governors' newsletters. We hope you found last term's interesting. In this issue we aim to introduce you to another two members of the Governing Body and will give you an update on what we have been doing following last year's Parent and Pupil questionnaire. We will also tell you a little more about what we as Governors do. If you have any suggestions on the future content for our newsletters we would love to hear them. We had no replies to the form on last term's newsletter, so we have included it again this term. Please take this opportunity to let us your availability for meetings and clubs.

Who we are:

John Throssell: I have been a governor at Crown Wood Primary School since shortly after its opening and Chair of Governors for nearly as long. My youngest son attended the School some 20 years ago and I now have 2 grandchildren at the School.

Professionally my expertise is in health and safety and I am able to use this to good advantage to help the School.

I am also the ICT Subject Governor and have governor responsibility for the library and safeguarding. I try to attend school as often as possible and particularly enjoy assemblies and end of term productions. I've even been known to help in the Office when the Secretary has been away – it's an excellent way for me to meet parents.

Gill Greenaway: I work at Crown Wood Primary School in my role as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, having begun my school career in the field of Special Needs Support.

I have one daughter who is 26 years old. Her first five years of schooling I am very pleased to say were at Crown Wood Primary School, where she grew in confidence and began her love of learning, which remains strong to this day.

Many of you will know me through the Parents School Association which I have been involved in for eighteen years, twelve years as secretary and six years as Chair.

It has been almost eight years since I became a governor, I am pleased to say that I have been proud to be part of the school in this role, to have a say and to be actively involved with decision making in all areas of the school life. My only regret is that I did not join earlier when my daughter was at Crown Wood, I feel that as a parent I missed out on the opportunity to be part of a group of people who would have enhanced school life and learning for my child at that time.

Update on Questionnaire results

In our last newsletter we told you about last year's Parent and Pupil Questionnaire results. After the Easter holidays it will again be time to ask you for your opinions on the school and we really do value your opinions. Last year's questionnaire gave us a lot of food for thought and we are continuing to work on the areas that you suggested improving. For example:

Activities for children at lunchtime. As the school continues to grow in pupil numbers, playground space is limited during the winter months when we cannot use the field. Morning play times are now at different times for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children so everyone has more room in the playground. During lunchtime Year 5 children have been trained as play leaders and they now help the younger children to think of games to play. We now have a Playground Games Assistant, she ensures hoops and skipping ropes etc. are available to children who want them. Of course as soon as the weather permits us to use the field the children will be allowed to play with balls again, but whilst we are on the tarmac area it is just not safe.

Other children's behaviour. Teachers are constantly monitoring children's behaviour and a review of the behaviour policy with the Parent Consultive Group will happen next term. Teachers manage behaviour as it happens, but please be aware, they are not in a position to discuss it or the measures taken to rectify it with anyone other than the child's parents.

Crown Wood Primary School's image in the community. We continue to inform the press of every event we have at the school and were delighted to welcome our local PCSOs and some past school staff into the school last term for Christmas lunch and to watch the children in their Christmas plays. We also know you will continue to spread the news about our wonderful events as we know you are also proud of your children.

Request for more information on how to help your child learn. We continue to send home half termly information on the areas of the curriculum your child will be learning so you can support your child at home. Home learning is now being sent home regularly and we hope that you have all managed to log on with your child to Fronter, our new learning platform. The information available on it will continue to increase over the next few months. Year 6 parents have been invited to an information session on their year 6 SATS this term and last term parents of year 4, 5 and 6 children were invited to a talk on internet safety.

Our school website is out of date. We have started to update our school website over the past month. You can find on it term dates, important letters and the current school menu. We will continue to add more information to it. The website address is: www.crownwoodschool.com

Request for more clubs. We have even more clubs than last year. Every teacher in the school runs a club and we have clubs run by School Governors. During the winter months some of the outdoor clubs had to stop due to bad weather and dark evenings but most of them will be restarting over the next few weeks. However, as the children always want more clubs we are always happy to receive any help you can give either after school or at lunch time when some children would like to have for example a board game club. A form is attached to this newsletter if you think you could help or would like some more information on what it would entail.

What do Governors do?

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 Head teacher, school staff, parents, children and the local community to continuously develop the school. We meet termly as a collective group but much of our work is divided into smaller committees who meet even more frequently to deal with specific areas. Those main committees are:

Curriculum: This committee is responsible for most of the school policies. It also reviews and monitors the school's performance and deals with all matters to do with the curriculum.

Marketing: This committee is responsible for constantly reviewing and trying to improve the school's image. It aims to gather the opinion of all parents, pupils and the local community and to involve the whole community with the school.

Finance: This committee is responsible for ensuring the school's money is spent in the best possible way.

Accommodation: This committee is responsible for maintaining the buildings and ensuring the environment is safe.

As the Governing body of Crown Wood Primary School we hope all parents will play their part in helping us to develop the school and its image. We like to think of our role as a partnership. Suggestions or ideas are always welcomed and if you would like more information from us, we often attend school events or you can contact us at any time through the school office.

Dear Parents,

At Crown Wood Primary School we wish to involve Parents as much as possible. It would be of help to us to know at what times of the day you would prefer to attend meetings and events so we can plan accordingly. Please complete the form below and return it to school with your child.

We are also constantly trying to provide as many clubs as possible to provide the best learning experiences for the children. To be able to do this we need more volunteers from parents, families and the local community to help in running these clubs.

If you are interested in either running a new club or helping with an existing club (this could be before school, at lunch time or after school) please would you provide your contact details below and indicate as appropriate the areas that are of interest to you.

I would prefer to attend meetings:

- Between 9.00am and 12.00noon
- Between 1.00pm and 3.00pm
- Between 3.30pm and 6.00pm
- After 7.00pm
- Saturday mornings
- I would like to attend meetings but need a crèche to be available

Clubs

- Sorry, but during the school day I am unable to help with any clubs

I am interested in helping with:

- Arts and Crafts
- Cooking
- Music and drama
- Sports
- Books and reading
- Board games

Please indicate the times you may be available:

- Before school
- Lunchtimes
- After school

Contact details (needed if willing to help with a club):

Name:.....

Phone number:.....