



Governor Update

Stratford Rural Schools Federation

Summer term
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WHAT'S NEW THIS TERM? UPDATE FROM ERIC APPLETON, CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

In this latest governor newsletter, we bring you an update on our **Parent Survey Action Plan**, showing how we have been responding to the points raised in last year's survey. We hope you feel that the process has been a useful one and that you will take part in the next survey due this term.

Monitoring is central to every governors' role so we will also be sharing some of the feedback from our **Governor Week** in February, during which time governors visited all 3 schools to meet with staff and pupils. The event was a big success and will become a regular part of our monitoring. My thanks go to all the governors for giving up their time and for the on-going contribution that they make. Also, thanks to all the staff and children who made us feel so welcome!

Finally, by now you should have received a letter from myself and Mrs Plaskitt about budget submissions and the funding challenges facing schools like ours at this time. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can also find out more about the funding crisis and the campaign for fairer funding at <http://www.schoolcuts.org.uk> or <http://www.fairfundingforallschools.org/>. With the upcoming general election, it's a great time to make sure your MP supports increased funding for schools. Make your vote count and challenge your party representative to explain what they will do to secure your child's future.

Governor Week

From Monday 6th to Friday 10th February, the governors took part in a programme of events across the three schools, including face-to-face sessions in which the children told the governors what they liked or didn't like about their school; Learning Walks to see the school in action; morning coffee with the staff; School Council meetings; discussions with the children about their learning; lunchtime chats and Celebration Assemblies. Here are just some examples of the useful feedback received.

Learning Walk at Snitterfield Jonathan Baker, Foundation Governor



The Reception class engaged governors in a Q&A session. They were very confident and displayed impressive levels of communication. Class 2 were involved in a phonics lesson. I was pleasantly surprised by the technical detail of their learning. Class 3 were engaged in working out maths fractions. Pupils seemed to understand the work and I was interested to see how the Year 4 pupils were helping Year 3. The children were all

focused on their learning. Class 4 were finishing off a lesson on pie charts. The thumbs-up feedback at the end showed that the majority had made obvious progress. The school is clearly fortunate to have some excellent teachers who have inspired excellent learning behaviour in their children.

What we like about Loxley school Dan Bake, Parent Governor



All the children showed confidence with the work they presented on 'What we like about our school'. The narration was clear and energetic. The children showed a real love for the school as a whole and spoke with passion. The tour was well thought out, with specific displays and topic-based work being pointed out along the way. A fantastic insight into the school!

Wilmcote School Council Wayne Berry, Co-opted Governor

Very impressed to see the pupils taking an active leadership role in the school and being encouraged to do so by the staff. The idea of Play Leaders is excellent. In general, the pupils were all very polite and seemed very happy in school.

Celebration Assembly, Snitterfield

Rachel Beacham, Foundation Governor

An opportunity to see a non-faith assembly. Lovely to see independent, confident children leading the house points system and the music, preparing the hall and clearing away afterwards. I enjoyed the writing and reading focus for certificates and liked the positive tidy classroom credit. All children spoke clearly and confidently in front of the whole school, staff and some parents. An excellent celebration of achievement, both inside and outside of school.

Learning Walk, Loxley

Roger Harrison, Co-opted Governor

In each of the 3 classes, the children were engaged in their learning and taking responsibility for their own work. The teachers and teaching assistants demonstrated a good balance of control, encouragement, praise, understanding, guidance and discipline. The range of ability and age in each class can be significant, but is being addressed well.

Celebration Assembly & Learning Walk, Wilmcote

Eric Appleton, Chair of Governors



Assembly: For a small group, the singing was loud and clear! Choir practice is paying off. All children showed excellent discipline, sitting quietly, and were attentive. Good to see the celebration of success, great class work and role models. **Learning Walk:** I very much enjoyed the informative tour of the school led by an enthusiastic Annabelle & Amelie. They were both knowledgeable and engaging. I came away with a much better understanding of the school and witnessed good behaviour in all classes and an impressive display in Year 4/5/6.

WHO TO CONTACT

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You can find more information at: wilmcoteprimary.org.uk/governors snitterfieldschool.org.uk/about/governors/ loxley.schools.uk.com/Page.aspx?ID=43168

Parent Survey

The governors have been busy working on the Action Plan which has been put into place following the last Parent Survey. Here is a summary of actions taken in the key areas raised:

Communication: New termly Governor Newsletter and half-termly updates from the Executive Head in the School Newsletters on school improvements. Increased attendance by the Executive Head Teacher at school events.

Extra-curricular opportunities: All schools seeking to provide a range of after-school activities catering for a variety of tastes, including some clubs that are free of charge. Schools hold theme days and plan for cross-federation events throughout the year.

School meals: Improvement work at Loxley includes a working kitchen to provide hot meals. A choice menu and a change in the structure of lunchtimes at Snitterfield. The introduction of 'themed day' meals.

Church School aspect: Wilmcote & Loxley promote links with the Church and give collective worship a high profile in school. Plans for regular opportunities for pupils to worship in church.

Can you help?

We are recruiting new governors to support Wilmcote, Snitterfield and Loxley School. The Governing Body is a lovely group of volunteers who provide support and challenge to the senior management team across the Federation.

We meet as a whole group once a term but also have 3 specialised committees covering Teaching and Learning, Resources and Children, Families & Community. Governors typically join one of the committees that interests them or where their skills can best be used. Governors are also invited to come in and see firsthand the work of the school during a normal school day (eg, during Governor Week) and speak to staff and pupils.

We are after people who are not shy, who are able to ask challenging questions and who are keen to help improve our schools. If you have professional skills or interests that you feel could benefit the school, then do let us know about those too.

For example, in the past we have appointed governors who can advise us on HR, recruitment, marketing and safeguarding, and at present we would particularly love to hear from anyone with experience in: *Finance; Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND); Curriculum – especially Science or Literacy; and The Church and Christian aspect*

Interested? What next?

In the first instance, just drop us an email (via the Clerk to Governors) or give us a call and we will be happy to talk you through what is expected. We keep meetings to a minimum and although there is a basic amount of time commitment, we are all busy people so we do not hold meetings for the sake of them! Being a governor is a rewarding role and one that has many training opportunities and is a good way to give something back to the wider community. We look forward to hearing from you.

GOVERNOR PROFILES

In this issue, we introduce you to one of our Co-opted Governors, Ruby Broomfield, who is also our Vice-Chair and Chair of the Children, Families & Community Committee. We also introduce the new Parent Governor for Wilmcote, John Bates.

My name is **RUBY BROOMFIELD** and I am a co-opted governor with Loxley School. I work for National Grid as a Community Investment



Advisor. My role as a Community Governor is to represent the different groups in the community, to share my skills and, in the process, give something back to the community that I live and work in. As the governing body we are responsible for working with the school to ensure that it delivers a good quality education for all pupils.



My name is **JOHN BATES** and I am a new parent governor. My daughter Rachel attends Wilmcote school as will her sister

Charlotte in two years' time. I am looking forward to helping our federation in whatever way I can. I feel it is vital that we as a community support our schools and their hardworking staff members at all levels. With budget cuts looming this support is required now more than ever.