



GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2024

WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

Our governing body is made up of 10 members. A chair of governors, vice chair, co-headteachers, parent and staff governors.

Governors are like a Board of Directors and they make strategic decisions about how the school is run. The 3 main roles of school governors are:

- setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Governing Board is not responsible for the day-to-day running of the school; this is the responsibility of the Headteacher.



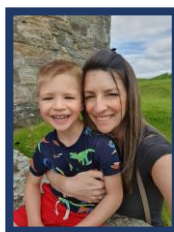
MEET THE GOVERNORS



Andy Whitefield
Vice Chair



Catherine Byard
Headteacher



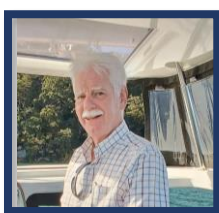
Jennifer Nabipour
Co-headteacher



Vanessa Siddall
Co-opted Governor



Laura Wickert
Staff Governor



David Howell
Co-opted Governor



Kathryn Parkin
Parent Governor



Sharon Dilly
Clerk

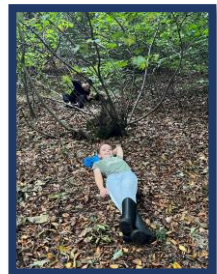
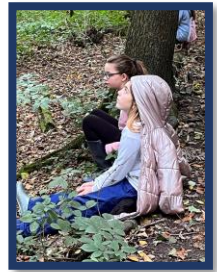
GOVERNOR SPOTLIGHT – Kathryn Parkin

Recently becoming a Parent Governor has given me a brand new perspective on all that it takes for a successful school to thrive. After 15 years as a Secondary School teacher, I took a move into self employment providing educational services to primary schools. I've seen a wide variety of settings as a result over the past 6 years and have constantly admired the team spirit and service of volunteers to their community no matter the obstacles. When the opportunity of becoming a Parent Governor arose last year, I jumped at the chance to give back to the school that has nurtured both my children. Seeing behind the scenes of everything that goes on at Stonelow has been eye opening and inspirational at the same time and I am looking forward to contributing to my own community.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN TALKING ABOUT?



On Thursday 13th June, two representatives from Stonelow Junior Governing Body attended the wider Dronfield School Governor's Forum. It is a good opportunity for governors from the wider Partnership of Dronfield Schools to get together and discuss issues affecting all schools and share ideas. An update from the most recent meeting of the PODS headteachers was provided by Nicola Thomson. This meeting was slightly different to normal as it was just before the July 5th election, so representatives of 5 of the 6 parties standing for election in the area attended in order for the governors to ask them questions and raise issues within local education - a bit of a warm up for the candidates who then went from the meeting straight to the local hustings. The chair of the Governor Forum, Alan Thomas (a governor at DHFS and Northfield) also announced he was stepping down at the end of the academic year as he was moving out of the area. The next forum meeting is scheduled for October.



GOVERNOR VISITS

David Howell - My governor visit aimed to gain a greater understanding of teaching maths, the challenges presented to staff, and the resources in place to ensure the best outcome for our children.

During my visit we discussed how the whole school policy was implemented to ensure consistency throughout the year groups. I was able to see first hand maths lessons in progress in the different classes.

The resources available to teachers enables them to adjust the teaching to suit different learning curves and help all children reach their potential. Strategies are also in place to promote 'sticky learning' and help children retain the knowledge they have gained.

It was good to see how the teaching programme is monitored and can be adjusted to suit the particular focus of the school.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

In the Summer term, Year 6 sat their standard assessment tests in reading, grammar and mathematics (writing is teacher assessed). These tests are then compared to national data. All of our children did very well, and our data is significantly better than the national average.

We are particularly proud of the progress percentage scores that the children have received. This is the rate at which children have progressed from key stage 1 to key stage 2.

Governors have thanked leaders and their teams for the exceptional results and we remain committed to providing high standards of education for all our children, ensuring they leave us 'secondary ready'.

| 2024 | Mathematics | | Reading | | Grammar | | Writing | | WRM | Progress |
|----------|-------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|-------|----------|
| | EXS | GD | EXS | GD | EXS | GD | EXS | GD | | |
| Y6 | 83.9% | 19.4% | 87.1% | 25.8% | 93.5% | 48.4% | 79.4% | 20.6% | 64.7% | tbc |
| National | 73% | tbc | 74% | tbc | 72% | tbc | 72% | tbc | 61% | tbc |