

BURLINGTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

ISSUE 3

Governor Newsletter

SPRING 2018

Message from the Governors

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the spring 2018 edition of the Governor Newsletter!

We said goodbye to two Governors this year: Kerri Cooke and Sarah Evason. Thank you very much for their invaluable contribution over the years!

We welcome two new Governors this spring: Viviana Patterson and Simon Campbell. For a full list of Governors, please go to the website: <http://www.burlingtonj.kingston.sch.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=25>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Utting and her staff for all their hard work and for making this school such a happy and safe environment for our children.

Next week we say goodbye to Mrs Sims, our Assistant Head and SENco, who has been at Burlington for 19 years.

We are going to miss her very much. Over the years she has supported and advised many, many families who have needed help with their child who has special educational needs.

Mrs Sims has always gone the 'extra mile' for the staff, parents, and most of all the children at Burlington to make sure that pupils have received the very best learning opportunities. Burlington is so sad to see her leave but wish her a very happy and fulfilling retirement.

We wish you all a very good Easter break!

Governor vacancy

The Governing Body currently has a vacancy for a Governor.

The Governing Body has a general responsibility for the conduct of the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. Governors ensure that the school fulfils its responsibilities and continues to improve.

Governors work with the Headteacher to provide the best possible education for all the pupils.

Governors do not need any formal qualifications and are not expected to be experts in everything.

The Governing Body meets twice a term on a weekday evening.

If you are interested in joining the Governing Body, please leave your details with the school office.

To find out more details of what the Governing Body does and to find out who our current Governors are, please have a look at our website:

<http://www.burlingtonj.kingston.sch.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=25>

2017-18 Governor focus

Governors agreed that the priorities for 2017-2018 are:

- To be a stand out school
- To close the Pupil Premium gap in all year groups
- To close the Special Educational Needs (SEN) gap in all year groups
- To improve the progress rates in reading (boys in particular)
- To develop the maths mastery approach across the school.

Governing Body minutes

You can find previous minutes on our website:
<http://www.burlingtonj.kingston.sch.uk/page/?title=Minutes+of+meetings&pid=26>

You are welcome to attend the meetings as an Observer, but please notify Mrs Utting, the Headteacher in advance.

Next meeting:

Wednesday 20 June 2018 at 6.30pm

Parent Forum

Did you know that we Burlington has a Parent Forum where you can have your say?

The aim is to strengthen relationships between parents and teachers.

At the last meeting on 17 January 2018 the following topics were discussed:

- There is a parent handbook on the website
- Parents are always welcome to come into class to work with the children
- Open afternoons will be held on a Friday at 3pm for parents to come in and look at their children's targets/progress
- At parents' suggestion, Year 6 will trial writing their weekly targets in the homework diary
- Parents are encouraged to come in before class assemblies to meet other parents in their children's class to socialise
- There was a presentation from the Maths co-ordinator about maths techniques
- Children are encouraged to use TT Rockstars to help with their times tables

You can find more information and the latest minutes on the website:

<http://www.burlingtonj.kingston.sch.uk/page/?title=Parent+Forums&pid=33>

FOR YOUR DIARY: Next Parent Forum meeting: **Friday 29 June 2018** (9:00-10:00)

Feedback

We would be grateful for any feedback, so we can include the information that you would like to find out about in our next issue. Please contact the school office with any comments.

Governor Visits

As well as attending the main Governing Body meetings, each Governor has responsibility for a specific area:

Chair: Jason Lebidineuse

Vice-Chair: Stefan Bown

Year 3: Jason Lebidineuse & Stefan Bown

Year 4: Joan Daniel & Kitti Kottasz

Year 5: Ann Bastow & Siobhain Griffin

Year 6: Anusha Stewart & Stuart Lothian

Safeguarding: Stefan Bown

& Viviana Patterson

SEN provision: Ann Bastow

Pupil Premium provision: Siobhain Griffin

Health and Safety: Siobhain Griffin

All Governors have been into school this term. Visits normally include:

- Talking to the Year leader and class teachers
- Asking questions about pupils' progress, teaching and learning
- Focusing on Pupil Premium and Special Educational Needs
- Looking at data about progress
- Observing lessons
- Looking in books
- Attending assemblies
- Attending School Council
- Talking to the children

Governors provide regular reports to the Governing Body about their visits.

Parental contributions

The school has so far this year only received **15%** of parental contributions. We would like to encourage you to donate £40 if you have not already done so.

We spend the parent contributions on the following:

- playground equipment
- computer resources
- extra-curricular activities both in and out of school to support the curriculum, such as workshops, drama, dance, and musical opportunities
- top up swimming lessons for children who cannot yet swim 25m
- the garden areas and pond
- books for the library

Thank you!