

# Governors' newsletter

September/October 2014



Dear parents & carers,

I wanted to update you on some changes to the Governing Body. Firstly, we are sorry that, due to changes in their personal circumstances, **Alex Bolingbroke & Charnjit Rai** have resigned from their roles as Parent Governors. We are very grateful for all their hard work and contributions to the school during their terms of office.

In addition, the Governing Body is currently reviewing our constitution in line with the latest requirements as set out by the Department for Education. Our Governing Body is currently made up of 6 Parent Governors, 4 Staff Governors, 3 Local Authority Governors and 4 Community Governors. The new government requirements are that we reduce the number of governors in some of these categories. Once we have agreed our new constitution we will be holding an election for new parent governors but I wanted to give some information about how the Governing Body works in advance of that election process.

The Governing Body is responsible for making sure the school improves each year. It sets the direction and make sure the school is meeting its targets, whilst allowing the headteacher and teaching professionals to manage the school on a day to day basis. Governors attend meetings where reports about the school's progress are discussed, they test information received by asking questions and make sure the school spends its budget wisely against the priorities shown in the school plan. Whilst every Governing Body is different, they will

- work within a structure that gives every governor a role in the governance team
- learn how the school evaluates its own strengths and weaknesses
- understand how areas for development become targets in the School Improvement Plan
- share decision making to ensure that the school budget supports the delivery of the targets in the School Improvement Plan
- receive reports, make focused visits to the school, study results, and participate in other activities to enable them to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the school
- support the school, act as representatives of the school and provide a link between the school and the community.
- evaluate their own performance as a Governing Body and identify areas of development and complete training to make sure they continue to work effectively as a team.

Although we are all unpaid volunteers, the Governing Body works very hard to ensure we have the right skills and knowledge to fulfill our role. We are supported in this through access to training from KCC and national governor support networks. The most important attributes for any governor are

- common sense
- the ability to work in a team
- an interest in education and a commitment to the school
- patience, energy, enthusiasm and some spare time
- a willingness to listen, learn and to spend time in school
- a willingness to undertake training

As a Governing Body, we are very proud of Wrotham Road School- it is a school that responds to change and challenges with strength and positivity and our pupils are such great ambassadors of the rich cultural heritage within the school. We are continuing with our drive to ensure that the school gains the recognition it deserves for the excellent work done by everyone within the school to be sure that our motto of *"opportunity, excellence & enjoyment for all"* is true for every child.

Please look out for the information regarding the Parent Governor elections after half-term and do consider whether you have the skills and attributes that could contribute to the effectiveness of the Governing Body. If you would like any further information about being a governor please contact me through the school office or speak to any of our Governors.

Ann Walker, Chair of Governors.