

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2019

Dear All,

We hope you all had a good half term holiday and we are now all on the countdown to Christmas. This term is particularly exciting for the children and rushes past very quickly!

Maria-Louisa Raeburn, Parent Governor:

"The children had a great start to the year as they were greeted with the thrill of new playground equipment when they returned in September, thanks to a National Lottery grant. A climbing frame and outdoor musical equipment including a custom-made oak xylophone, chime bars and drums, have been set into a hard-wearing mulched surface. Funding came courtesy of a £10,000 grant from the National Lottery Community Fund and the DfE's 'Little Extras' pot. The children were of course delighted!

There is academic success to celebrate too: every child in Year 6 achieved the national standard or better for Reading, Writing, Maths and Grammar following their SATS tests. The school has just begun working towards an Artsmark award and looks to develop budding artists in the years ahead.

What's more the children have enjoyed some new clubs this term including football, ball club and Mrs Nye's Spanish club which have proved popular. After half term they have been welcomed back with gymnastics, moly fit and the popular animation club and Action Ants, amongst others! Thank you Maria-Louisa Raeburn."

Susan Pattinson, Staff Governor :

"The teachers at Crosby Ravensworth are excited to embark on this festive half term as there is much to look forward to over the coming weeks. Practice for our Christmas play 'Straw and Order' has begun, parts have been cast and song practice will begin shortly! Class one will be learning all about festivals and celebrations this half term including Diwali, Hanukkah, Thanks giving and Christmas of course! Class 2's topic is ancient Egypt and they have a cultural trip to Liverpool planned for next week on which they will be visiting a Jewish synagogue and a cathedral.

We value our links with the community and are always looking for ways to enhance them, we therefore encourage parents to come into school for our 'Pop in and play' session, community lunch, library cafe and Christmas fair and carol service. All dates and further details can be found on the Friday bulletin. Thank you Susan Pattison."

Alan Woodward, Governor and Chair of Pupil Progress Committee:

"As you are all aware we have just recently had parents evening at the school. As a governor I attended part of the evening to support the school and be available for parents comments and concerns.

Following the meeting a few parents spoke to me and following that conversation felt it would be a good idea to get feedback about the evening from you all. It may be you were completely satisfied with the arrangements you may wish for changes. We want to hear from you!

Thank you Alan Woodward"

Linda White, Chair of Governors:

"We have received feedback that families may sometimes be more comfortable contacting governors directly rather than via the school office. With that in mind, we are reinstating the "Chair" email address so that very soon you can contact us direct, should you wish to do so. Our IT consultant is currently working to implement this and we will let you know via the Friday Bulletin as soon as it is in place. Please let us know your suggestions and thoughts. We look forward to hearing from you.

On that note, we do have an ongoing vacancy for a parent governor and would love to hear from anyone who may be interested in joining us. Please do think about it. We would be happy to answer any questions and talk you through what you would be taking on.
Thank you Linda"

John Walton, Safeguarding Governor.

A few words to keep everyone up to-date regarding Safeguarding. In September 2019 the Department of Education issued a revised 'Keeping Children Safe in Education" document which is a statutory guidance for schools and colleges. We have worked hard to ensure we have taken the necessary measures to comply.

From September 2019 Ofsted will carry out inspections of early years and schools under the Ofsted's Education Framework. Inspectors will always report on the effectiveness of safeguarding for which Ofsted have published specific guidance. Safeguarding our children is of prime importance and will remain our priority.

In anticipation of an Ofsted inspection we recently called in an independent company called Safeguarding, Health & Safety Consultants Ltd to do a Safeguarding Children Audit. I'm pleased to be able to tell you that the auditors were quite pleased with the outcome with only a couple of minor things to resolve. One new improvement is we have added a lock to the school gate to improve security during school breaks and the lunchtime.

Thank you John "