

Governors Newsletter July 2019

As another school year ends, a big thank you to all the children for their hard work, enthusiasm and contribution to the school throughout the year. We say a special goodbye to Year 6 pupils Immy Gill, Jay Green, Max Kerr, Katie Rogers, Rhona Walsh and George Woodstrover, who are moving on to new schools. Congratulations on your achievements and very best wishes for the future.

As I write, today was Prizegiving and an amazing concert by the children. All present were truly impressed by the talent and wide-ranging skills of the children. Congratulations to all pupils and staff for your hard work and for such an enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you to all parents and families for supporting the school and its projects and events, and to Duncan and his staff for their hard work and dedication. We hope everyone has a happy and fun summer holiday. The school is a partnership and every link in the chain is key. Let's look forward to coming back refreshed in September and embracing the new school year with enthusiasm and commitment.

We have welcomed 3 new governors in recent months (Neil Hughes, Tom Cripps and John Walton), but now say goodbye and a big thank you to Sarah Rogers, who is stepping down. Sarah has been a very active and committed governor and we thank her for her valuable contribution over the years. Sarah writes:

"As my own daughter leaves Crosby this term to move up to secondary school, I have decided to resign as a foundation Governor, a role which I took on back in 2012.

I feel passionately about volunteering and believe that 'doing your bit' in a small rural community such as ours is vital. This is why I became a governor in the first place as I saw getting involved in our wonderful school as a way of 'giving something back'.

My term as a governor has not been without its challenges in terms of the appointment of a new headteacher following Mr Ayre's retirement together with other members of staff, and the extension of our school provision for children from the age of three, but I am immensely proud that our school now has a dedicated headteacher and members of staff who together ensure that each child who attends our school is given the opportunity to develop to become a well-rounded individual who will make a positive contribution to the adult world. This is in addition to them learning the importance of not only caring for one another within the school community but being part of the wider community.

Our school has maintained its high academic standards and its facilities have developed over the years with even more planned, such as the new outside learning structure to be erected in the school grounds. There really are exciting times ahead.

Sometimes it can be so easy to pass a comment or criticise, but being a governor has taught me so much about how our school works and we really are extremely lucky to have it.

As I leave, I would like to congratulate Mr Priestley and his teaching staff on their dedication to the school and their enthusiasm; my fellow governors for their assistance over the years and finally you, the parents for sending your children to our school and your helpful feedback when asked.

I wish you all well and keep up the good work.

Sarah Rogers"

To update you on some of the work governors have been doing this year, Debbie and Neil McCall write:

"Last March I agreed to be the link governor for health and safety. Little did I know what awaited me! It's not just looking at slip, trip and fall type issues, but covers all policies, documentation, record keeping, safeguarding and governance. In fact, about the only thing it doesn't cover is pupils progress(!). The health and safety programme is monitored by our external consultants who are the experts and come to do periodic school inspections.

Well I could appreciate how important it all is, sat there in the background to ensure the safe and accountable running of the school, but there's no way that I could do it alone. We divided the workload between the governors, set out an agenda of priorities and got on with it! It's not perfect and there's still a few actions outstanding but we're more or less there. I owe a huge thank you to my fellow governors for putting up with me, but an extra special thank you to Pauline and Duncan who have given a lot of time, willingness and humour.

Now that the really time-consuming tasks are done, I ask myself what improvements should we look at next? it would be great if the wider village community joined with us to keep this school special. I'd love to see more partnership and ideas. For example, I'm going to offer to teach knitting and/or crochet in after school club next term. What do you think? When I was at school we just went there, sat through lessons and went home. Our school offers so much more and working together we can do more and more and better!

We're always open to suggestions! Have a lovely Summer break.

Debbie McCall"

"Hi, I'm Neil McCall, I'm married to Debbie McCall who is one of the school governors and we have lived in Crosby Ravensworth for almost four years. I am retired and have a background in IT, internal audit and fraud prevention and detection for a high street bank, and have also been a church treasurer so have experience of handling confidential personal info.

The GDPR regulations which came in in 2018 means that all public bodies, however small, have to have a Data Protection Officer so I took on the role last year. This involves giving guidance regarding data protection to staff and governors (although I am not part of the governing body), ensuring we have comprehensive procedures in place, being the first contact for authorities in the event of a data protection issue and to be available for parents to contact. I also oversee the Freedom of Information policy which is perhaps the other side of the coin in that non-personal data may be requested by individuals."

If you have anything to ask or tell us about, or are interested in joining us as a parent governor, please contact us:-

By email chair@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk or clerk@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk

Chat to any of us when you see us about (our governing board is Linda White (chair), Liz Lindwall (vice chair), Stewart Fyfe, Alan Woodward, Debbie McCall, Marie -Louisa Raeburn, Duncan Priestly, Susan Pattinson, Neil Hughes, Tom Cripps, John Walton.

Drop a note in at school to be passed on to us. All matters referred to governors are treated with complete confidentiality.

OUR NEXT MEETING AS A FULL BOARD IS ON WEDNESDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2019 AT 6.30PM (TO BE CONFIRMED)