

## **Crosby Ravensworth School - Governors' newsletter July 2023**

Well what an exceptionally busy summer term this has been! The children have had some amazing trips and activities – I've been quite envious – and special thanks are due to the Friends for their kind support for so many events. They, the children and all the parents, are also due congratulations on the fantastic success of the summer fair fundraising. That was a real win-win.

We continue to be very grateful, too, to the Crosby Ravensworth United Schools Foundation, which generously helps out with funding for specific projects, such as the outdoor area outside Class 1. This has made a huge difference to the activities that can take place, no matter what the weather brings.

### **Governor news**

We've welcomed three new governors to the board this year: Georgina Griffiths, a retired teacher, who lives in Crosby and has taken on the role of vice-chair; Revd Stephen Tudway, who arrived as our parish vicar in the New Year; and most recently Naomi Callaghan, who is a new parent governor, also living in the village. We're in a strong place and I appreciate all the time and commitment that our governors give, generously and for free.

### **Parents' meeting next term**

While I've met many parents and carers at events over the last eighteen months, I don't know all of you. Georgina, our vice chair, and I plan to be at the parents' meeting next term, so do feel you can introduce yourself. We're hearing a lot in the news about the overall impact of the pandemic on children, and I'd love to hear your views on that, whether general thoughts or more specific experiences. Do you think there have been any long-term effects on your child or children?

### **Governor focus**

In the autumn we plan, for the second year running, to hold a special governor session to discuss issues in more detail than is possible in our usual termly meetings. It will be timed to happen after the Parents' meeting, so any topics raised by you then can be put on the agenda.

I recently met up with other chairs of governors from the area. This was really fruitful and we plan to meet once a term to support each other, exchange ideas, and make sure we don't reinvent the wheel when we're problem-solving in our own school! I know the head teachers in this schools cluster find their equivalent group very helpful.

### **Attendance and school meals**

The governors are really pleased to see that attendance has improved. Please keep up the good work and ensure your child attends school as consistently as possible. It only takes a few days' absence for children to fall behind in class.

None of us wanted to increase the cost of our school meals from next term but I'm afraid the decision was inevitable. We didn't want to pass on the full cost of school dinners, so the school is subsidising every single meal served – including the so-called 'free' school meals for Class 1, where we top up the government's contribution, to provide a really good meal. Offering just one alternative choice to the main meal will also help with staff time and reduce waste.

### **Pre-school expansion**

Over the next school year we expect the numbers of children joining the pre-school to increase steadily, which is really healthy. And, as some of these newcomers to the school already have younger siblings, this is very promising for our future numbers. As you probably know, a considerable portion of our funding is based on the number of pupils we have.

### **Celebrating the school's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in its current building**

In September 1963 Crosby school moved to its current site and also welcomed children from the schools in Maulds Meaburn and Reagill, which closed that summer.

Two main things are planned for this milestone. First, a Church service in St Lawrence's on **Sunday 24 September at 11am**, led by Revd Stephen Tudway, to which all of the local community are most welcome, and especially anyone who attended the school in this time or was involved in any way. Please put this date in your diary and pass the news on to others who may be interested. There will be a bring and share lunch in the Village Hall after the service.

Secondly, if you attended or have been involved with the school over the last 60 years, **we want to collect your memories!** Georgina Griffiths and I are gathering brief video memories recorded by people on their phones, and we will be available at the Crosby Ravensworth Show on Thursday 31 August to capture any last-minute offerings. The (very specific!) details of what to do to submit your video clip are at the end of this newsletter. We plan that clips will be viewable on a private YouTube channel, on the school website and in Church through QR codes displayed at the time of the September service.

### **Lastly....**

The governors send their warm wishes to our Year 6s as they leave us for the next phase of their education. We hope they will look back fondly on their time in Crosby and will hold on to the school's core values as they take their next steps, remembering the importance of courage, compassion, and community.



Have a great summer, everyone.

Barbara Wallis, chair, on behalf of the board of governors

## **Collecting video memories of Crosby Ravensworth CofE School**

**To celebrate the school's 60 years on its current site, the governors are collecting brief video clips of memories from anyone who has attended the school or been involved with it, since September 1963.**

It would be wonderful to have memories from every decade since the opening! We plan that clips will be viewable on a private YouTube channel, on the school website, and in St Lawrence's Church, via QR codes, at the time of a special service marking our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, on Sunday 24 September 2023.

Maybe you remember a favourite teacher or a particular event, or maybe you'd like to tell us about something about school dinners....?

### **Here's what to do:**

- 1) Record a brief video of yourself on your phone, preferably android but iphone files are acceptable. **Start by giving your name and when you were at school, or the nature of your involvement and an approximate date.** (These details are REALLY important as without them we may not know who's who.) Clips should ideally be no longer than **1 minute**. You can submit more than one.
- 2) Upload your video clip/s to our dedicated One Drive folder at [https://1drv.ms/f/s!AlGbrADhV\\_fohd1UG1FjZLoM0GzaTw?e=3GB0kK](https://1drv.ms/f/s!AlGbrADhV_fohd1UG1FjZLoM0GzaTw?e=3GB0kK)
- 3) Email us at [chair@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:chair@crosbyravensworth.cumbria.sch.uk) (giving the same name you've used on the clip) to say you've deposited a clip and so we can email you a permissions form to complete and return, to comply with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). We can't use your clip without this signed form. If you are under 16 the form will need to be completed by a parent/carer.

**The deadline for depositing clips is Thursday 31 August.** Which is, coincidentally, Crosby Ravensworth Show day!

We plan to have a stall there so you can chat to us about the project, have a last-minute clip recorded if need be, and fill in a permissions form there and then.

Please pass this info on to anyone who may be interested – wherever they live in the world, they can submit a video clip! These details are also available on the school website at [Collecting Video Memories](#).

Play nicely! The governors reserve the right to decline any inappropriate videos.

*Barbara Wallis   Georgina Griffiths   -   governors   July 2023*