Welcome to the first edition of the Boxmoor School Governors' Newsletter. Each term we will report on what we have been up to, the impact for the school, and what our plans are for the future.

Since taking over as Acting Chair of Governors for the past two terms, it has been an absolute pleasure to observe the fantastic progress of the pupils and the wonderful atmosphere within the school. As we await Ofsted any day now, I feel confident that the changes implemented by Miss Evans and Mr Edwards will be positively recognised. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and long hours they dedicate to making Boxmoor Primary the special place it is. Thank you also to all the staff for their commitment, ready smiles and their ability to adapt and succeed. Boxmoor is lucky to have well-behaved, curious and creative pupils who embrace learning and the governors are striving to ensure that they have the best educational experience possible. I'd also like to thank the parents who have shown outstanding support over the past year and I've really enjoyed attending some of the events organised by the proactive PTA. Finally, a huge thank you to the governors who give up their spare time with such enthusiasm and good spirit!

I am stepping down as both Acting Chair of Governors and school governor as I start a new job after the Easter holidays. I will be travelling a lot and probably moving home so it won't be viable for me to continue. I know that I am leaving you in safe hands as John Eardley takes over as Chair of Governors (previously Vice Chair).

Christina Shearer, Acting Chair of Governors (September 2014 – March 2015)

What we do

As school governors we are responsible for the vision and strategic direction of Boxmoor Primary. We hold the Headteacher to account for how well pupils achieve and progress educationally, and for the quality of teaching. We also oversee how the school spends its money, making sure the school stays in budget and receives value for money.

The structure of meetings is as follows:

- the Full Governing Body (FGB) meets once a term
- the Improvement Committee meets once or twice a term – responsibilities include the curriculum, reviewing assessment data, quality of teaching, Pupil Premium, safeguarding pupils and so on.
- the Resources Committee meets twice a term – responsibilities include finance, premises and personnel.

We also have occasional one-off meetings for training or to discuss particular issues.
**Who we are**

The Board of Governors consists of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headteacher</td>
<td>Vicky Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 staff</td>
<td>Donna Lewis and Katherine Ross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 parents</td>
<td>Jane Read, Sandrine Florand and Richard Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Local Education Authority</td>
<td>John Eardley (Vice Chair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 co-opted</td>
<td>Christina Shearer (Acting Chair), Kay Gobby and Joey Farnell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate member</td>
<td>Dave Edwards (Deputy Headteacher)</td>
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</tbody>
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As well as sitting on particular committees, we are each responsible for one or more special areas:

- **John Eardley**: premises / health and safety / pupil premium / sports premium / pupil voice / able, gifted and talented (AGT)
- **Dave Edwards**: Maths
- **Richard Evans**: reading / tracking new initiatives from Department for Education (DfE) / press and publicity
- **Joey Farnell**: finance / personnel / human resources (HR) and pay / Chair of Resources Committee
- **Sandrine Florand**: safeguarding / behaviour / modern foreign languages (MFL) / Chair of Improvement Committee
- **Kay Gobby**: special educational needs (SEN) / data analysis
- **Donna Lewis**: Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- **Jane Read**: English / website / governor training / pupil premium / sports premium / pupil voice / able, gifted and talented (AGT)
- **Katherine Ross**: personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) / introduction of the new curriculum to foundation subjects / Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- **Christina Shearer**: quality of teaching / liaison with staff and parent groups / policy tracking

**Recent activities**

- We carried out a pupil voice survey in November where we interviewed pupils from all years with a specific focus on marking, feedback and challenge, listening to and noting their concerns, suggestions and comments.

- We also carried out a staff survey in December which covered aspects of school life including staff morale, pupil behaviour and governors. 69% of staff responded. The survey showed that staff were proud to be a member of the school and enjoyed their jobs. They also thought that the school was well-led and managed and children were safe. Areas for improvement included management of pupil behaviour, meeting the needs of individual pupils and governors being involved in school life.

- Christina attended the INSET day on 5th January on *Vision and Values*. She delivered a session in which everyone completed a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis and considered important words and phrases that staff would like to see included in the Boxmoor Vision. Christina also fed back the results of the staff survey, asking for more clarity on some of the comments.
We volunteered to have an external review of the governing body by the Local Authority to help us to identify our strengths and areas for development. The review took into account interviews, questionnaires, the school improvement plan, minutes of meetings and the Headteacher's report. As a result of this, we now have a clear action plan we are working towards including: helping all stakeholders to develop Boxmoor's vision, receiving data training, developing the governor area on the website, reconstituting the Governing Body and finalising the committee structures.

We have attended training courses including: Exclusions, Handling Complaints Effectively, Securing Good, Safer Recruitment, Headteacher Performance Management and Financial management for governors of maintained schools. We also held an in-house data training session using Raiseonline as part of our role of holding the school to account.

We have completed a staff consultation about the New Pay Policies and the policies are now in place.

We have carried out a KS1 health and safety walkabout along with the caretaker. No major problems have been identified.

**Planned activities**

We are going to be:

- carrying out Behaviour Learning Walks to observe behaviour in the classrooms to see if it is appropriate and conducive to learning and whether poor behaviour affects learning. We will be spending a few minutes in each classroom and watching how the pupils respond to the teacher, learning support assistants (LSAs) and each other.

- monitoring expenditure of pupil premium on helping the more able pupil premium pupils.

- preparing the draft budget for the whole school.

- completing the schools financial value standard (SFVS).

- carrying out a parent survey.

For more information, visit our Governors page on the school website: [http://www.boxmoor.herts.sch.uk/topic/governors](http://www.boxmoor.herts.sch.uk/topic/governors)

Governors' photos can be also found in the school entrance hall.

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that the improvements that have been identified as necessary by the recent Ofsted inspection are being implemented and are starting to deliver immediate results. If you want to contact the Governors in confidence to raise any issue, then please contact us by letter via the school office.