Message from the Chair of Governors

I recently read an article on the BBC website describing school governors as ‘the embodiment of civic worthies’. I am not sure what that means, but I do know that all the Governors at Wellington Community Primary School are motivated by the desire to see the whole school flourish, it is not about us, it is all about the whole community.

This week is a significant one for the governing body at Wellington as it marks four years since we were formed out of the temporary governing body that set the school up. There have been quite a few changes to the membership over that period, I would like to publicly thank all those governors who have served the school community in the first four years, including those who have recently been reappointed for a further four-year term.

We are in the fantastic and envious position of having no governor vacancies, which I believe is a great reflection of the Wellington culture.

Someone once said that, in business there is nothing more constant then change, this is certainly also true of our school.

Through times of change we have been able to keep our core vision and values constant. Part of our vision was to see our school becoming a resource for both the local cluster schools and the community, it has been great to see this vision become a reality.

I know all the Governors, old and new, are looking forward to continuing to provide strategic direction as we build on what has been achieved during our first four years as we continue on our journey to become an outstanding school.

Neil Bridger, Chair of Governors

Meet the governors

James Bayliss

Role: Co-opted governor, chair of Finance & Personnel committee

Reasons for becoming a governor:
Firstly, as a parent of a young child who recently started school, I wanted to get a better understanding of the working of schools so I could be of more help to her. Secondly, I wanted to become an active member of the community, and volunteering as a governor seemed a good way to give my time to something really important. I volunteered through SG OSS, a website dedicated to finding volunteers to serve as school governors, and I would strongly encourage anyone who thinks they would like to give something back to the community to do the same. Their website is http://www.sgoss.org.uk/ and I can’t say strongly enough how rewarding I have found the last 18 months of being a governor at Wellington. Thirdly, as I had
the history of Wellington and its amazing journey over the last few years explained to me, I really felt like I wanted to be part of that story and help the other governors finish the job of turning the school into one of the brightest achievements in the recent history of Aldershot. I think the whole community should be proud of the job that the headmaster and the governing body have done over the last few years, and it was a very easy decision for me to want to join that success story.

What do I enjoy most about being a governor: Without wanting to take anything away from the incredible job done by the headmaster, the teaching staff and all the support staff in the school, we as governors take a great deal of satisfaction from every child that has a positive experience at Wellington. Looking through balance sheets, legislation and policies can be a bit dull at times, but it’s worth every second if it means a better outcome for the kids in the school. Feeling that I play my small role in helping children be safe, happy and well-educated is probably more satisfying than most of the things I do in my day job!

What is the most challenging part of being a governor: hearing about some of the difficulties faced by children. As part of a recent safeguarding course, we went through some examples of what can happen when the system lets children down and it can be pretty horrible. We also know that children in the Aldershot area sometimes have needs and challenges that children in many other parts of Hampshire and the country just don’t have. The school staff take their responsibilities really seriously when it comes to being part of a community project that looks after the needs of each and every child and we as governors do everything we can to support them in that.

Look out for me and my colleagues in future newsletters, parent’s evenings, or at school events whenever we’re able to attend.

Child Protection and Safeguarding –
Bronwen Carr-Bates, School Governor

Child Protection and Safeguarding is one of the most vital duties of every school in the country and we are no exception.

The protection of the children at Wellington is at the very core of our ethos as a school. At the beginning of this term the full governing body underwent safeguarding and child protection training to ensure that we are all up to date with all the very latest guidelines and thinking on the subject. This session was harrowing but very informative and we certainly left with a much deeper understanding of the issues involved and the robust structures in place to keep all children safe at all times.

Child protection is so important to all of us and is a key way that the school can integrate our work ever more fully into the community. An exciting new opportunity to cement these links will be through the appointment of our new Family Support Worker who will work with the school and throughout the local area providing advice and practical help to those who might require a little support from time to time.

Apart from attending meetings, what else have governors been doing?

We have:

- met with staff to monitor assessment, maths, SEN provision, safeguarding and Health & Safety
- attended parents’ evenings, school performances and assemblies at the Garrison Church
- gone on school trips
- assisted with after school clubs
- attended training & briefings

How do I contact a governor?

All governors are contactable through the school office. You can either leave a message for them, or e-mail the school, who will pass it on to the relevant governor or governors.