

Letter to parents of Batchley First School children from the members of the school Governing Board

March 2021
Dear Parents
Back to school!

What a relief it must have been for you when your children were able to return to school earlier this month! We governors appreciate how much you have all worked so hard to support them with their home schooling tasks for so many weeks and want to thank you for helping the school deliver learning during this difficult time. So when the children returned to school some of you might have been reminded of the Jill

Murphy story book, 'Peace At Last'!!

We know that Mrs Downes and the school staff worked incredibly hard to provide online learning opportunities but are now thrilled to have their classes full again. We

hope your children are enjoying learning again in school with their friends, teachers and TAs. Children learn so much from sharing their ideas with one another as well as with supporting adults. They must be so glad to be able to learn, socialise, play and chat with their friends again.

WELL DONE EVERYONE!

More about us!

We don't need special

qualifications to be governors but

we do need to:

- * read quite a lot of papers to prepare for meetings
- * attend six Full Governing Board meetings annually
- * serve on one of the Board's sub-committees
- * visit the school to check how effectively the School Development Plan is being delivered
- * take part in useful training
- * work as part of a team

It was a year ago on 18th March that the governors appointed **Mrs Downes** as the school's new Head Teacher. Five days later on 23rd March the country went into lockdown! What a roller coaster we have all been on since then and what a difficult time for Mrs Downes to begin her leadership of the school. We hope you have all been able to start to get to know her. As governors we are incredibly grateful to her for her cheerfulness and resilience throughout all the uncertainty of the last year.



Where we are all
VIPs
Valued, Inspired,
Progressing, Secure.

In our January letter we said that we'd explain more in this letter about what we do. There are various sub-committees – some meet only occasionally for specific purposes but at Batchley we have two main sub-committees that meet termly – the Resources Committee and the Standards and Curriculum Committee. All governors will be attached to one or both of these committees. There are six governors on each of the sub-committees. The discussions and decisions made at these meetings feed into the business of the Full Governing Board meetings. All governors are expected to attend these twice termly Full Governor meetings. Below shows a little of how it works.

The Resources Sub-Committee

In a nutshell, this committee has three areas of responsibility, all in consultation with the head teacher:

- **Finance:**
to draft the budget and establish and maintain an up-to-date financial plan
- **Staffing:**
to keep under review the staffing structure, including the pay policy and appointments
- **Buildings:**
to decide on priorities, including Health and Safety, for the maintenance and development of the school premises including repairs

The Full Governing Body meetings – FGB

These meetings set aims and objectives and agree, monitor and review policies, targets and priorities. The governing board takes a strategic role, acting as a critical friend to the school and being accountable for its decisions.

Amongst many things the Board:

- receives reports from individual governors, staff members or committees to whom a decision has been delegated and considers whether any further action by the governing board is necessary
- approves the first formal budget plan of the financial year
- keeps Policies including the Health and Safety Policy and the Safeguarding Policy and practices under review and makes revisions where appropriate

The Standards and Curriculum Sub-Committee

This committee in consultation with the head teacher has responsibility for:

- the consideration of standards relating to the school's curriculum, including statutory requirements and the school's Curriculum Policy – how the school approaches, reviews and develops teaching and learning across the year groups
- overseeing arrangements for individual governors to take a leading role in specific areas of provision, e.g. SEN, literacy, numeracy, and report to the FGB