



MIDDLE BARTON SCHOOL
27 Church Lane, Middle Barton,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, OX7 7BX
Tel/Fax: 01869 340522
Office.2151@middle-barton.oxon.sch.uk
www.middlebartonschool.co.uk
Headteacher: Jane Tailby



Governor Spring term Newsletter 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy term, the governors have been continuing their work behind the scenes to make sure that our school continues striving to be the best it can be. With the announcement that Mrs Tailby will be leaving us at the end of the summer term, the governors now have the incredibly important task of recruiting a new headteacher who will continue to take our school from strength to strength.

We feel very strongly that the views of everyone at school should be taken into account when it comes to looking for teaching staff, including the headteacher. We have held sessions with both the children on the school council and staff in order to understand what characteristics and skills are important to them in our new headteacher. We have incorporated these into our job description for the position, which will be advertised this week. The application deadline has been set for after the Easter holidays on 20th April, and once we have shortlisted candidates we hope to interview in the week commencing 23rd April.

Being data governor is more fun than it sounds!

Data is everywhere in today's world, and Middle Barton School is no exception. Every school has to track and record the progress and attainment of all children, to make sure every child is doing the very best they can. The headlines are all recorded publicly – things like results from the National Tests and how the school is spending the Pupil Premium funding to make a difference. But behind the scenes, the governors look closely at the details too. We all come in to school to review randomly selected samples of children's work, for example, to see for ourselves the progress being made and the way the teachers are feeding back to children to help them improve. We sign off on the school's marking policy, and then monitor how it is working in action. As assessment and data governor, I meet with staff every term to review the data from the termly assessments. That data is then shared at the next governors' meeting. It's all anonymised – we don't see children's names. What we do see is trends of how all children, and groups of children (boys/girls; classes; SEND; AGT etc) are progressing through the steps laid out in the school's assessment objectives. The head teacher and staff governor can talk to us about any reasons for changes in the data – for example, accelerated progress following a new teaching and learning intervention. Myself and other governors recently attended some excellent training run by River Learning Trust. We talked about best practice in assessment and discussed with governors from other primary schools how they monitor data, so that we could all learn from each other. We are committed to staying up to date and making sure we use all the data available to us to ensure every child is achieving to the best of their abilities.

Rachel Houghton, Community Governor

Values

Having had a Values-Based education myself, after attending the primary school the founder of Values-based Education was Headteacher of at the time (Dr Neil Hawkes), I know how much of a positive impact it can have on individuals, as well as groups of people. Values-based Education is an approach to teaching that works with values. It creates a strong learning environment that enhances academic achievement and develops pupils' work, social and relationship skills that last throughout their lives. As you know, values are an integral part of our school and form the bedrock of school life, as a foundation for teaching and learning. As well as maintaining a school ethos and culture that promotes the British Values, we have a 3-year rolling programme of values, these are at times addressed directly through lessons and assemblies, but also permeate the whole curriculum. As parents and carers, we ask that you continue to take time to discuss values with your children. As parents, carers and teachers we all have a very important part to play in developing the values of the children. Do share any discussions or activities linked to our values with us!

Emma Trafford, Staff Governor

Monsters, Pirates, Pigeons and Bats

All of these creatures featured in the picture books shortlisted for an Oxfordshire Book Award. Copies of these, and of an impressive selection of junior novels, all arrived in school this term and formed part of the story telling afternoon. Myself and some children from the Book Club visited KS1 classrooms to read the picture books to the younger children, and get their feedback. The Book Clubbers did a fantastic job of reading the stories and getting everyone to join in – the LOUD noises to scare 'monster' out of the book were particularly impressive. Since then, we've discussed the books again in Book Club, looking in a bit more detail at covers, illustrations, characters and so on. Children are taking it in turns to borrow the books and read them at home and their views will be taken into account in voting for the winner. Thanks to Mrs Rothwell for organising the storytelling and sharing the books.

Rachel Houghton, Community Governor

River Learning Trust Update

Our application to join the River Learning Trust (RLT) is well underway. Our Academy Order, the official application we have to make to ask that we be given permission to convert to an academy and join RLT, has now been officially approved by the Department for Education. A process of due diligence has been taking place over the last two or three months including visits from HR, finance and a Support/Challenge partner (looking at our teaching and learning). Our teachers are already beginning to see the benefits that being part of RLT will bring - they have been invited to Trust moderation and curriculum meetings to share expertise collaboratively.

Teresa Street, Vice-chair of Governors

New Governors

Since we wrote our Christmas newsletter we have had three new community governors join the governing body. We have welcomed Alison Umney, Peter Wild and Emma Merry and they bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience that will be invaluable to our team of governors. Here are their obligatory new governor photos, if you spot them around school do say hello!



Our budding journalists within the PLT have been busy interviewing Peter. Here are their questions and his answers:

Q. Why did you apply to be a governor?

A. Because I would like to help the school.

Q. What can you offer our school?

A. A lot of skills and education, and I love working with children.

Q. Do you have any goals or ambitions?

A. I want to travel around the world.

Q. Who is your inspiration?

A. Ludwig Wittgenstein (a philosopher).

Q. What is your shoe size?

A. 9 UK or 43 European.

Q. How would you describe your personality?

A. Cheerful and miserable!

Q. What do you do in your spare time?

A. I like to walk and make things and go on holiday.

Q. How would you describe yourself in three words?

A. Curious, trustworthy and kind.

Q. What was your favourite subject at school?

A. History.

Q. What is your favourite word?

A. Bumptious!

Interview performed by prefects Florence Pearce and Faith Disney

On behalf of all the governors, I would like to wish you and your families a very restful and happy Easter. We look forward to seeing you all back at school for the summer term on 17th April.

Jamie McStocker

Chair of Governors