



Governors' Winter Newsletter

As the end of the first term of this academic year approaches, we would like to congratulate our new children and staff for settling so quickly into our school community.

As Governors, we are here to support the school and work as a 'critical friend' to the Leadership Team. Our job is to work as a democratic team, helping the Headteacher to make decisions about the strategic development of The Gattons. We are all very proud to be able to be a part of such a wonderful school.

Who are the Governors?

The Governing Board is made up of 12 governors including the Headteacher, one Staff governor, two Parent Governors and seven Co-opted Governors (typically members of the local community). We also appoint Associate Members to support the Board and currently have three Associate Members. We welcome two new Governors this year and are very pleased to say this makes us full as a Governing Board. Beth Leeming is our new Co-opted Governor. You may recognise her as she used to be Chair of FOGS. It's great that she has continued to be involved at The Gattons by joining the Governing Board. John de Boissierre is our new Parent Governor and was elected to the board at the beginning of November. They both add a huge amount to our Board both in skills and experience and we all look forward to working with them in the coming year. Our Governors come from a range of backgrounds and bring different experiences and skills to the Governing Board. We are also supported by a Clerk to Governors.



Lucas Cook
Chair of Governors



David Daly
Vice-Chair of
Governors



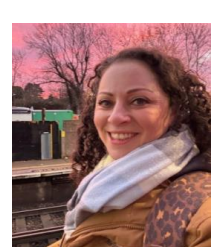
Sarah Gospel
Headteacher



Leila Grass
Staff Governor



Paula Wills
Local Authority
Governor



Debbie McLean
Parent Governor



Rosie Brickell
Co-opted
Governor



Alison Palmer
Co-opted Governor



Ellie Bennett
Associate
Member



Rupert Grass
Co-opted Governor



Rev. Jules
Middleton
Associate Member



Abi Steele
Co-opted Governor



What is the role of a Governor?

Governors are like a Board of Directors and they make strategic decisions about how the school is run. The three main roles of school Governors are

- setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
- holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

We also ensure that all stakeholders voices are heard.

The Governing Board is not responsible for the day-to-day running of the school; this is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

What have we been doing this term?

- Full Governing Board meetings are held four times per year, with two in the Autumn term. In September, we agreed to our roles for the year. At our December meeting, we focused on the School Improvement Plan and how we can support the school in implementing it.
- Committee meetings are held once per term. We have two committees: Staffing and Pupils and Resources.
- Governors have been in contact with the subject leaders to find out more about the plans for each subject this year. This often involves Governor visits to the school so the children may see Governors in class.
- Our Chair, Lucas, meets with Sarah, our Headteacher on a regular basis, as well as teaching ukulele in Year 2. Our Headteacher Performance Review Panel has already met with Sarah to set objectives for the year.
- We will be reviewing our skills and experience as part of our annual skills audit and identifying suitable training for us to further develop our skills.
- You may have seen some of us around school and at school events. When we are in school you can recognise us by our orange Governor lanyards.

All that remains is for us to wish you a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy your holidays and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

