

St. Clement's Governors blog

Welcome...

Hello & welcome to our new St. Clement's governors blog. As a team of governors we have been trying to decide the best way to communicate with the parent/carers, friends & family of the children at our school so you can understand a bit more about our role and also find out what we've been up to so I hope this blog can serve that purpose!

I'm Eleanor & I'm the chair of governors. I know a lot of you already as I currently have 2 children in the school, Grace & Phoebe, & my eldest daughter Rebekah has already gone through St. Clement's and is now enjoying high school so after 9 years of being a parent at the school I think I know it pretty well!

There are 12 governors in total on our governing body and we are all volunteers in this role. We have 3 parent governors: myself, Sally & Nicci, 3 community governors: Liz, Gillian & Cosmas, 3 foundation governors (from St Clement's church): Judith, Zoë & Daniel, a local authority governor (appointed by the LA): Tony, a staff governor: Ms Nichol & our head teacher Mrs Parker. We are a varied bunch with a variety of life experiences between us but we are all passionate about making our lovely school, the best it can be for our children and their families!

In our last meeting Mrs Parker showed us the results of the recent parents survey carried out at parents evening. It was encouraging to see how happy you & your children are at the school. We were concerned about a couple of comments about bullying and we have tried to get this clarified further but overall it was really positive.

We also looked at the wider curriculum provision in school, e.g. history, geography, science, computing, music etc. I'm sure most of you have heard of Ofsted, they inspect schools to make sure that they are providing a good education for all children. In September, they made a lot of changes to the way they inspect schools and one of the new priorities is to make sure that all children are taught a wide range of subjects & not just English and maths. This is great for us at St. Clement's as we already had a strong, wider curriculum in place, so now we just need to make sure it continues to progress and continually improve until we get the chance to show it off during our next inspection! In order for governors to see how the curriculum is progressing & to help us understand how subjects are taught in school, Mrs Parker took us all on a tour of the school before our last meeting. It was lovely to see all the fantastic work on display & to see what the children have been learning. We saw lots of topic based work; including history & also writing, science and maths. It was clear to see how hard the children and staff have been working this term. We also invited Miss Bowen (wider curriculum lead) to the meeting to outline how the school is moving forward with the wider curriculum and how teachers are teaching our children this broad range of subjects and also ensuring they are making good progress in them all too. We will continue to review the progress at our meeting in January. The wider curriculum

was also the focus of our recent visit with our quality assurance professional from the local authority.

The governors have also been busy with visits into school & doing some training. There has been a lot of safeguarding training taking place and I have just completed the Chairs Development programme which was a 10 month course to help me in my role as chair. It was really useful! There is also some Ofsted training planned and we have been doing some quizzes in the meetings to help us prepare for inspection which has been fun. Each governor at St. Clement's is linked to a class and we aim to visit them once a term & follow them up through the school so we really get to know them. This term the focus of our visits has been "high aspirations" as this is another important focus for our school. My favourite part of any class visit is seeing how well the children are doing. Their behaviour in class is fab and they are such a delight! A real credit to you all!

On that note I'll close this post & wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I hope you will find this blog useful & I'll have another post in the new year.