



Governors' Newsletter

Welcome from the Chair of Governors

Dear Ellingham families

We are pleased to bring you up to date with our latest work in the Governing Body, and to report on matters we have discussed and considered.

This term has been a busy term of hard work (by all!) but also with a strong feeling of achievement. Recent visits have confirmed a very positive approach to learning across the school – excellent!

Do remember that the governing body will be pleased to hear from you about any aspects of the school you feel need bringing to our attention. We can be contacted through the school and can get together to discuss anything essential, or bring up the matter in our meetings, to encourage partnership with Ellingham families.

There is a list of Governors on our website, each has different abilities and knowledge, and we are responsible for various aspects of school life.

My greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all of you.

Best wishes

Linda Palmer

Chair of Governors

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From the Editor

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The year has flown by, again, full of events and activities. The School Governors have been glad to be part of all the happenings, and to play their part in the strategic running of the school. Ellingham is always busy, but also finds time to celebrate its achievements, and take an interest in the community outside. The Governors regularly monitor the work of the school and are pleased to be able to take part. Minutes of our Governor meetings can be accessed, if there a need, by contacting the school office.

We all wish the school community; staff, parents and children a very Happy Christmas, and a good New Year.

Claire Jones

Governor

Learning Walk Report by Vince Wort

Governor Learning Behaviour Walk 12th November

I have been provided with a copy of the Learning Walk carried out by the Head Teacher on 28th September and one by the School Improvement Partner, Dr Jo Sullivan-Lyons. Both evidence that teachers are adopting the Kagan process and that the children are developing a real hunger to learn. There are also comments around the children's ability to coach effectively and that this is also helping their communication skills. One really encouraging point is that the School Improvement Partner mentions "there are elements of outstanding behaviour", which is obviously very pleasing to hear.

It is fair to say that I was initially sceptical about Kagan and had concerns around how it may impact on higher achieving children. Having spent time at the school today I have been won over and can see it having real benefit to children of all abilities and backgrounds; it was clear to see that even at Key Stage 1 the children were benefitting from peer to peer learning. I was given one example in Year 2 where a child, who had difficulty learning previously, was now able to work without supervision within their group. The child had even commented in their own self-review that they found it easier to learn with their shoulder partner. The school is committed to embedding Kagan behaviours and I was impressed with the impact it appears to be having. The school monitors their progress around these behaviours with regular Learning Walks and Review Meetings.

One final comment is that there is a display board near the entrance showing that teachers are happy to learn new skills with several teachers having challenged themselves to learn a new skill; for example the Head Teacher is learning to juggle. This reinforces Kagan principles.

Assessment

Ajaz Khan has been into the school twice this term to meet with leaders with regard to new assessment procedures.

Guidance and expectations are now available on the website in the Parents' Zone. Paper copies will also be available on parent-teacher consultation day.

Teaching and Learning

As well as Vince Wort's visit to monitor learning behaviours, other governors have been tracking progress in their area of responsibility.

Staff have provided end of term reports which will be further discussed in full Governing Body and committee meetings next term.

Awards Afternoon

It may seem a while ago, but we all had another enjoyable afternoon on July 14th when the Governor Awards were presented. After our first awards ceremony in 2014, which proved to be so successful, it was such a pleasure to present certificates to children who had been picked by their teachers for their contributions to school life. These weren't just for school work, but for their attitudes, behaviour and helpfulness. As an example:

- being kind and caring, who will help any child in need
- taking a lead in looking after our plants
- being a role model for good behaviour
- being a 'Homework Hero'
- always being polite and kind to classmates
- being the kind of team member you want to have in your team.

These are just a selection and there were many more in the same style.

They make very satisfying reading. The governors are aware of the high standard of behaviour from all the children in Ellingham school, and although we can only give a small number of certificates, we would like to offer a 'thank you' to everyone for making this a happy school.

Mrs Palmer, our Chair of Governors, came to the event with other members of the Governing Body, who gave out the certificates.

We will be holding a similar event next summer so please speak to your child about the types of behaviour we will be looking for throughout the year.



Awards Afternoon

Safeguarding

Safeguarding

The annual safeguarding audit was completed by the Chair of Governors and staff in the autumn term. Members of the Governing Body attended the start of term INSET day and a presentation about the PREVENT Anti-Radicalisation programme by a member of the Metropolitan Police, gave us a lot of food for thought and some useful facts about the way this is handled. Mrs Creegan has also run a safeguarding session for governors and all staff this term. Governors felt that information on these topics could be made available on the website. If you have any concerns about the safety of an Ellingham child please do report these to Mrs Creegan, who is the Child Protection Lead Officer.

School Council



School Council

I attend the School Council as governor rep, and takes notes concerning topics raised, which might need governor attention. Recently, I went on a health and safety inspection walk round the school grounds, with Council members, who pointed out matters which they thought should be reported. The children have very sharp eyes and the whole walk proved very useful. I will be following up pertinent points with Mrs Ashborn, who is responsible for Health and Safety in the school.

Claire Jones

School Governor

Christmas Performances

The Christmas performances were marvellous – they brought Christmas closer for all of us.

Congratulations to the cheerful and tuneful performers, and to the staff who worked so hard to produce such delightful events.

