



Governor Newsletter

SIR JOHN BARROW SCHOOL

December 2017

Merry Christmas

As we prepare to break up for Christmas the Governing Body would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the SJB team for their continued support and involvement in the school's successes! We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Merry
Christmas

School Fundraising

SJB PTA fundraising events have always been really well supported and the funds raised at these events are vital to enable the school to support everyday learning, extra-curricular activities and off site learning opportunities.

Fundraising is becoming increasingly important in fulfilling the shortfall in education funding, so it is now more important than ever that fundraising is targeted and strategic, to this end we have recently set up a fundraising working group with the PTA to identify potential new sources of funding.

It is great news that the PTA have been successful in their application to the Co-op Local Community Fund, which is a great way to raise vital funds for the school. This runs until the end of October 2018. If you have a Co-op loyalty card you need to go online and choose 'SJB PTA' as your community fund choice and then every time you shop your community spend will go to SJB.

This group has already had its first success. The Furness Building Society have very kindly given us £150 from their community support fund. If anyone has any details of similar community funding that we could apply for please let us know.

Ofsted Inspection, 14th November : Good

We are delighted that the Ofsted inspection recognised the hard work of staff since the last inspection. The inspection framework has changed significantly since our last visit and checks are even more stringent.

The inspector's findings reflected what it is our job as governors is to know about the school: teaching is consistently good, pupils are safe, behaviour is excellent, pupils get off to a good start in Early Years (Nursery and Reception) and then go on so make good progress so that by the end of Year 6 a higher percentage than the national average leave school at the expected standard for reading, writing and mathematics.

SUCCESSING
ENJOYING
BELONGING

But these points are really the basics... the quotes which we are most proud of are those which reflect the character of SJB - **the inspector commented on the strong sense of teamwork that pervades the whole school, and that pupils are very proud of their school.** As governors, we are proud of our pupils and how hard they work. It is great that this has been recognised, and we are delighted that staff and the wider school community have had their dedication to the school formally celebrated.

Governor Spotlight: Rachel Benton & Alan Gerrard

Our most recently appointed Governor is Rachel Benton who joins us as a Parent Governor. Rachel is parent to 2 children in school and her primary role will be on the Finance Committee, she has just started the new fundraising working party to assist in raising vital funding for SJB. Rachel enjoys spending time outdoors with her family and her pet dog and the entire family have recently been getting into Park-Run at the weekends.



Alan Gerrard came aboard in April this year as a co-opted Governor, he has recently retired from his career as a Chemical Engineer and has moved to the South Lakes. He has over 20 years' experience as a School Governor and 10 years as Chair of Governors. In his spare time he keeps himself busy walking his Bearded Collies and tending his garden. He enjoys swimming and Scottish Country Dancing.

Governor Coffee & Chat

During this years' Christmas Fayre governors took the opportunity to gather thoughts from parents and carers on communication with parents, sport at SJB and online safety. Anyone contributing by recording their thoughts and posting them anonymously into a box earned a chocolate coin for their child or children.

We were delighted to have so many people engage with us and the overwhelmingly positive and constructive responses are greatly appreciated. Thank you to those of you who contributed and please look out for future consultations as your opinions really do matter to us.



SJB Chair of Governors designated a National Leader of Governance

Janet Heffernan has been Chair of the SJB Governing Body since February 2012 and has led the school through two Ofsted inspections, the Governor Mark inspection where we became accredited with this award, and then in September 2017 saw the governing body's achievements recognised by being awarded the National Governance Association prize for Outstanding Governance in a Single School.

Janet's contributions to school improvements locally through governor networks that she has set up have led to her being approached to become a National Leader of Governance. There are around 500 such leaders across England and Wales and they work on a volunteer basis to provide support to schools other than their own, which need help with their own governance arrangements.

This help can involve mentoring a new chair, improving school systems for monitoring or accountability, help with recruitment or training, preparing governors for inspection visits...

We are excited that this extra contact with other schools will also help us to learn even more about governance, as this area is always expanding and evolving.