



# Dore Primary School Governing Body Newsletter

Issue 6

Spring 2015

## School Governing Body

**Chair of Governors**  
Dr Steve Thomas

**Head Teacher:**  
Sue Hopkinson

**Vice Chair:**  
Lisa Bradshaw

### Parent Representa- tives

Sharon Court  
James Hope-Gill  
James Kenny-Levick  
Ruth Woodham  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

### LEA Representatives:

Jackie Mills  
Cll Colin Ross  
Michael Waters

### Teaching Staff Reps:

Jane Farrell  
Alex Percy  
Lisa Wells

### Community Representa- tives

Lisa Bradshaw  
Andrew Bush  
Debbie Miller  
Dr Steve Thomas

### Associate Representa- tives

Jason Fletcher  
Andrew Goodwin

## Springing into Summer!

It's hard to believe we are already approaching the end of the Spring term and preparing to leap into the fun of Summer - residentials, trips out, sports on the fields, classes held outside..

It has been a very busy 2014/2015 already. This newsletter is to keep you up to date with what's happening in the school and what the Governors have been up to.

## Assessment Without Levels

Following the Government's decision to stop assessing children with "levels" from September 2014, all schools in the UK were free to decide how to measure the progress of their pupils.

Having considered a number of available options, Dore staff decided that the most suitable approach for us is the milestone approach designed by Chris Quigley. This is designed to fit with the National Curriculum, but also fits very neatly with our own creative curriculum allowing children time and opportunity to develop their thinking and knowledge.

It is not overly complex, meaning that both staff and parents can relatively quickly get to grips with it so that conversations about children's progress can quickly be meaningful and useful. We hope that the letters home, the information evening on 2nd March and this month's parent's evenings have helped parents understand how measurement in milestones works. Having spoken to staff and parents within this and other Local Authorities we are really pleased with how quickly Dore has fully adopted and implemented the new approach.

There are currently three schools in Sheffield using the Chris Quigley milestone method, and we have held, and will continue to hold, moderation meetings with those schools to confirm that we are all assessing children consistently.

## Reconstitution of the Governing Body

Due to government legislation, all maintained schools whose GB (governing body) was constituted prior to 2012, has to reconstitute under the [School Governance \(Constitution\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#). This has to be legally completed by 1st Sept 2015.

The new GB is to consist of :

<b>Parent Governors</b>	At least 2
<b>Staff Governors</b>	Head teacher + 1
<b>Local Authority Governors</b>	1
<b>Co-opted Governors -</b>	Determined by the GB

There is to be a minimum of 7 governors and no more than 1/3rd can be staff.

The emphasis is to ensure the school have governors whom together have the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver the core functions necessary for a cohesive and dynamic governing body.

Since September 2014, governors have undergone a skills audit and considered their own individual position on the GB. Governors have taken this opportunity to look at the size and effectiveness of the GB. We are working towards ratification of the new GB at the next full GB meeting in June 2015, ahead of the Sept deadline.

## The Mixed class situation update for Year 1 & Year 2 Children.

Year 1 & Year 2 children for this academic year are in 5 mixed classes. This situation came about in 2012/2013 when the LA required the school to take extra admissions due to the area being oversubscribed.

With 75 Year 2 children moving up to the Junior site of the school in Sept 2015, the Senior Leadership team with other staff members have been considering options of this transition.

Although this is an operational issue, the GB are supporting staff to reach a decision for the best interests of the children. The School Change Team which enables parents to have a voice, have also been involved in meetings with the staff and provided feedback to aid decision making.

In December a questionnaire of possible options was sent out to all parents of current children in Years 1, 2 and 3 (one option involved the Year 3 children). The questionnaire also allowed for parents to give their thoughts and suggestions on the situation. We would like to thank all those who responded to the questionnaire. It has been valuable in helping to make the next decisions. Please be reassured that at all the meetings held, the interests of the children have been at the forefront.

Currently staff are now reviewing the feedback from the questionnaire, School Change Team and Governors. We are expecting further information for parents to be given after Easter.

## Other News:

**Head teacher appointment:** Currently Governors are shortlisting and looking to interview potential candidates for the Head teacher's position. This is likely to be concluded by the end of March.

**Ofsted:** We are still awaiting the phone call... Staff and Governors are prepared. A big thanks to all the staff in keeping the motivation high. Just need an Inspector to call...

**Quality Mark for School Governance:** At the end of Summer we were awarded the Quality Mark for School Governance national award. This is a kite mark which provides external evaluation of the quality of governance in a school and active for 3 years. Thanks to the team of Governors who spent many weeks completing evidence and to the team who took time to be interviewed.

**School Financial Budget:** The Finance Committee have been involved with staff and the Bursar from the Local Authority in setting this year's budget. We have a flat rate amount of money from the council with no increase in funding. Therefore the following financial year is again going to be a year of very careful spending.

### School Policies

Policies that have been recently ratified by Governors:

- Social Media Policy
- Vexatious Complaints Policy
- Pay Policy
- Debt Policy