

Monk Fryston Church of England Primary School

Governor's Newsletter Summer 2015

Our Aim: "We aim to inspire a love of learning and provide the opportunities and encouragement for everyone to develop his or her full potential in meeting excellent standards of achievement and behavior".

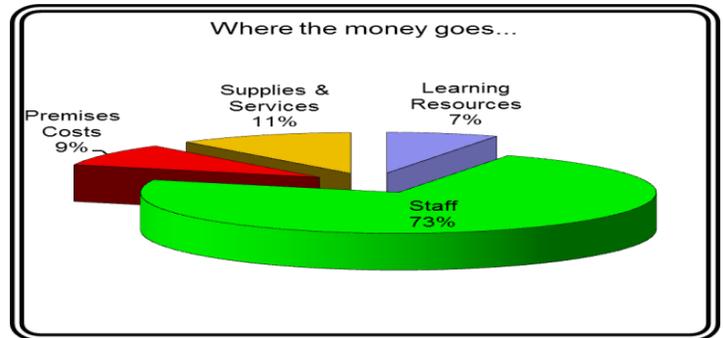
Welcome to our latest edition of Governor News.

As you may be aware the Governing body has two sub-committees: **Curriculum and Standards**, and **Finance, Staffing & Premises**. In case you can't remember the pictures of all the school Governors are once again attached at the end of this newsletter and under each of our names it shows our Governor position and the sub-committees we serve on.

Given the end of the spring term marks the end of the financial year (only one of the three years our school works to – the Academic Year, the Financial year and the Calendar year!), it is a timely point to update you on some of the key focuses of the Finance, Staffing & Premises Committee so far this academic year.

Finances:

2014/15	£000's		Notes
	Budget	Forecast Outturn	
Revenue			Full year actual outturn being finalised but expected to be closer to breakeven due in main to efficiencies in premises and supply costs.
Income	811	821	
Expenditure	(843)	(853)	
Capital			
Income	6	6	
Expenditure	(8)	(4)	



More details on how we have used the Pupil Premium and Sports Funding can be found on the website in the "Our School" section

Staffing:

In the first term of the year we appointed Mrs Dawber as Sports Leader – a part time post made possible through the PE & Sports Premium paid to every primary school as a legacy of the Olympics. Direct consequences that we think you will have noticed include the increasing participation in inter-school sport activities (e.g. golf, hockey and netball) and the introduction of the netball after school club. However, this appointment also brought indirect benefit to the school in that Mrs Dawber is a fully qualified, experienced teacher and has been willing to help with staff absence cover – a great plus when needed as she knows the school and, more importantly, the school **and children** know her thereby minimising the inevitable disruption caused through absence.

We then had the news of Mrs Strathearn's pregnancy, so set to recruiting maternity cover from the beginning of this summer term. We wish Mrs Strathearn and her husband all the very best with the birth of their first child and at the same time welcome Mrs Eyre as the interim Year 2 teacher. As always we followed a rigorous recruitment process where short-listed candidates were subjected to a teaching assessment, panel interview and school council interview, following which we were pleased to appoint Mrs Eyre who has previously worked in our school as a student teacher.

Then last term we accepted, with regret but understanding, Mrs Boulton's letter of resignation – after 18 years dedication to our school Mrs Boulton has decided to retire and enjoy a long-earned rest with her family – though somehow we don't expect it will be that restful! Following advertisement of the Assistant Head Teacher role we received many high quality applications which we shortlisted down to four candidates for assessment (which included an observed group activity as well as a teaching assessment, panel interview and school council interview). It is therefore very pleasing that our internal candidate, Mr Blackwood, shone through the process despite the tough competition and we look forward to his continuing and growing contribution to our school! The hunt for a new Foundation Stage teacher is now beginning....

Premises:

The most exciting premises news this year has been the library refurbishment - made possible by the hard work of the PTA. We now have a bright new, welcoming space along with loads of new books to encourage the children to read, read, read! In addition we have made use of the professional skills of one of our governors who carried out a premises inspection resulting in work to fix issues with the gutters and replace rotten woodwork, additionally, the governing body has also sanctioned a rolling programme of refreshing classroom furniture.

Parentview

During this school year some of you may have encountered governors at the Math's evening and Parent Consultation day actively trying to promote the use of Parentview as a vehicle for all parents / carers to express their views about our school.

As reported in the last issue of Governor News we had a strong response to the independent school survey we commissioned last year and found the results very useful. Unfortunately, the same cannot always be said for the information we glean from the Government collected Parentview data.

Through Parentview - each parent / carer is able to express their views once a year on the school attended by their child/children. This opportunity has been in since academic year 2011/12. In total over the 4 years it has been available, 42 views have been registered on Parentview (some of these may be from the same parent(s) / carer(s) in different years) – 20 (i.e. nearly 50%) of these have been expressed during 2014/15, demonstrating the impact of positive action taken by the Governing body.

But...we still want more!

We are keen that we have meaningful data which we can use to help ensure we keep on doing what we are good at but are also able to identify areas we need to improve so action can be planned. Whilst the response rate so far this year just about equals the total view expressed over the previous 3 years combined, we do not know that it is a truly representative view of the school as it only shows the opinions of about 5-7% of the parent/carer population.

So if you are not one of the 42 who has expressed views in the last 4 years ("thank you" if you are) please do take time to click on this link:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/register>

and register for the site. You will then get an email with log-on details

If you have registered views, but prior to this year then please click on this link to give us your up to date views:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

The questionnaire itself is just 12 questions long each with multiple choice answers so only takes a few minutes to complete.



Future developments:

Previously when considering school strategy the Governing Body has ruled out applying to be a Teaching School as it was felt a large commitment for a small school. However, the STAR Alliance has enabled us to revisit this position as we now have partner schools with whom we could share some of the responsibilities and benefits. As an initial step on this possible journey we have decided to offer ourselves as the lead school on behalf of the Alliance for the School Direct programme in partnership with the Hull University. This enables people to "train on the job" to become qualified teachers. We currently offer short-term placements to student teachers from the University of Bradford and York St John. School Direct will be different to this as the students will be in school for an entire year growing their abilities to teach classes alongside their continued academic University study. We consider the benefits of School Direct will be:

- We recruit and select the student teachers that are placed with us, giving much more control over the quality of students we host
- as with current student teacher placements, evidence shows it encourages the qualified teachers to review and consider their own practices as they develop the students (helping them keep "on top of the game")
- it allows for some capacity and flexibility in relation to teacher time
- it helps with continuity planning – as it provides an opportunity to "grow our own" teachers
- it introduces an additional revenue stream for the school finances
- it can act as a stepping stone towards becoming a Teaching School

Current plans are that we will commence the School Direct Programme in Sept 2016 .We hope that this will serve us well as we continue to investigate the opportunity of becoming a Teaching School.

Congratulations to Staff

We mentioned earlier Mrs Strathearn's pregnancy – but we have already had one birth among the staff this year – congratulations to Mr Riley and his partner on the birth of their daughter Jessica in January.

Also congratulations to our cook, Mrs Beckram, who has been promoted to a new post in a large training kitchen in a school in Selby. Their gain is definitely our loss.

Finally, it has been pleasing to receive positive comments from Year 4 parents on how well the staffing arrangements, introduced this year, are working. A real testament to the effort and commitment of Mrs Sutcliffe and Mrs Greenwood, as the Governing Body know that job-share arrangements often fail to work to the benefit of all.

And finally:

By now you will be familiar with the new school website – we recognise this as an important "window to the school" and hope you value it as a useful information source.

Thanks to everyone who gave feedback on the electronic booking system used for the Parent Consultation day: the feedback was very positive – therefore, definitely something we will seek to continue into the future.

As ever, should parents have concerns specific to their child/children please do arrange an appointment with the class teacher or Headteacher as appropriate.

If you have any feedback on this newsletter or other general matters you would like to bring to the attention of the Governing Body please pass on to the school office or alternatively email the Chair of Governors at cofg@monkfryston.n-yorks.sch.uk

Monk Fryston Church of England Primary School Governing Body 2014-15

Headteacher



Rick Weights

Curriculum & Standards
Finance, Staffing & Premises

Chair Of Governors



Liz Tuddenham
(Parent Governor)

Curriculum & Standards
Finance, Staffing & Premises

vice-chair of
Governors



John Hetherington
(Rector & Ex-officio
Governor)

Curriculum & Standards



Rosie Foster
(Foundation Governor)
Curriculum & Standards

Our Purpose is to :

- (i) help and shape the vision and direction of the school;
- (ii) ensure that the school fulfils its statutory duties including promoting inclusive policies;
- (iii) have a good understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school;
- (iv) challenge and support the senior leadership of the school.



Lisa Childs
(Foundation Governor)
Finance, Staffing & Premises



Lee Haynes
(Parent Governor)
Curriculum & Standards



Mark Stonell
(Parent Governor)
Finance, Staffing & Premises



Val Law
(Staff Governor)
Curriculum & Standards



Katie Wright
(Co-opted Governor)
Finance, Staffing & Premises