



Spring Term 2024 Governor Newsletter

Here we are, almost at the end of the Spring Term – goodness, it’s really flown by! We are all a little bit fed up with the rain now but hopefully we will see some blue skies and sunshine over the Easter holidays. If not, we can always console ourselves with copious amounts of chocolate! As another term draws to a close, we would like share with you some of the activities that the Governing Board have been involved over the last few months.

Pen Portrait- Jonathan Watson

Jonathon is our newest parent governor who originally hails from the Midlands but has lived in the village with his wife since 2017. Prior to joining the governing board, he served as a Parish Councillor for over 3 years but was always determined to play an active school role once his son joined Bishop. Jonathan’s professional background as a business intelligence manager brings a wealth of skills and experience that is proving to be a valuable asset to the Board of Governors and consequently to the school and its children.



Governor Activity

Each of the two committees (Resources and Teaching & Learning) have been beavering away behind the scenes to ensure that governance at Bishop is informed, focussed on the things that matter and remains strategic. We look at the progress the school is making against the criteria set in the school development plan and discuss ways in which we can support the school to be even better than it already is! We want our school to be ‘the best it can be’. To this effect, at the end of every meeting, we collectively ask, ‘What have we done to improve the education of the children at our school?’

Many of the governing board also come into school on a regular basis to meet members of the teaching team and support staff to further their knowledge of the curriculum, find out about new initiatives, consider safeguarding, health and safety and to see how resources are being used effectively. Graham Hooker attended the staff non-pupil day in January to gain some insight into how writing is being assessed against age related expected criteria. He was impressed by the professional dialogue between staff which enabled them to agree or moderate their judgements to ensure accuracy and consistency across the school. This term Graham Hooker and Sonya Lamoon were invited into school to meet the School Council who had prepared some excellent questions for them. The questions and subsequent answers have now been published on the Governance page on the school website. Who knew that Graham’s favourite animals were slugs and worms?!



Social Media

As the school continues to explore ways to share their work across the community and give greater insights into the many different aspects of school- life, we have seen an increase in the frequency of social media posts which celebrate all the great things that are happening. These posts also keep you informed and up

to date with special events and aspects of school life that happen beyond the classroom. If you can like, comment or share these posts we can continue to raise our profile in the wider community which in turn may help to improve pupil numbers in some year groups. Recently we've enjoyed seeing some great reels highlighting World Book Day, Red Nose Day, playtimes and PE.

School Development

One exciting new development has been the introduction of '100 Things to do before you leave Bishop'. Reading this document, we get a real sense of the varied experiences and opportunities that children are offered as they progress through the school. From 'Taking Harry the monkey home' to 'Submitting artwork for the Village Show', 'Visiting a museum' and 'Going on a night walk' all these bite sized activities form lasting memories and build resilient and well-rounded individuals who are ready to move on to the next stage of their lives.

Friends of Bishopsteignton School

We would like to say a big thank you to our fantastic FOBS for providing the funds to enable both the outside of the Adventurers classroom and the Preschool building to be repainted. They are both looking great! We are grateful for the time and energy they put into fundraising events which benefit the school in so many ways.

World Book Day

How lovely it was to see the children in their book inspired costumes on World Book Day this month?

Aside from the obvious fun of dressing up and the opportunity that this day gives to promote Reading for Pleasure, it also gives the children an opportunity to have a book of their own. Having a range of books at home and at school, having a choice in what to read, finding time to read, being read to regularly, having trusted help to help find a book and making reading fun all support a child to read for pleasure. Recent research has shown that Reading for Pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We are proud of the reading culture at Bishop – to find out more about your child's reading journey through each stage of development please visit the Curriculum – Reading page on the school website.

Finally, in celebration of global World Book Day celebrated on 23rd April we thought we would share some of our favourite books with you.

Here are some of our recommendations: both James Kilby and Nick Long love the Lord of the Rings Trilogy, Chris Merritt loves anything by Linwood Barclay, Sonya Lamoon's most memorable read recently was '*Lady Tan's Circle of Women*' by Lisa See, Pauline Morley loves '*Tidelands*' by Phillipa Gregory, Paul Zaleski's current favourite is '*Slow Horses*' by Mick Herron, Dave Boobyer has recommended '*Notes from A Big Country*' by Bill Bryson, Graham Hooker enjoyed '*Birds Without Wings*' by Louis de Bernieres and our Clerk chose, '*The Worst Journey in the World*' by Aspley Cherry-Garrard.

With our very best wishes for a lovely Easter break with friends and family,

From everyone on the Bishopsteignton Governing Board

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: Dave Boobyer, Co-opted

LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNOR: Graham Hooker

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS: David Lamboll | James Kilby | Pauline Morley | Sonya Lamoon

PARENT GOVERNORS: Paul Zaleski | Jonathan Watson | Chris Merritt | Nick Long

STAFF: Emma Leballeur (Staff Governor) Dave Killoran (Headteacher) | Geoff Jones (Clerk)