

**Granby Primary
School**

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GRANBY GOVERNORS'

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2016

ABOUT US...

Some of us are elected by parents or staff. One of us is appointed by the Local Authority.

We all meet together twice a term. One of these meetings focusses on the School Improvement Plan.

We also have two committees: Finance, Premises, Health & Safety; and Pay & Personnel

We meet in small groups called Phase Forums — one group for each phase — each term

We are looking for a couple of parents to join us in our phase forum meetings. Interested...?

We try to come to all the main school events—see you there!

Check out the Governors section of the website for lots more information...

Spring Term 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to your first regular termly newsletter from Granby school governors.

Previously we have just sent home an annual report which includes our 'Assessment of Impact Statement' – this shows the impact that governors' have made on school improvement over the year and demonstrates that we are doing our job! However we would also like to develop communication between Governors and parents throughout the year and hope this termly newsletter is one way to do this.

Governors were pleased to have the opportunity to meet some of you at the Parents' Evenings in February and we hope that this can become a regular feature of the evenings. Thank you to those who spoke to us or left your comments via the post-its and to the many of you who filled in the 'Ofsted Parent View' on the laptops set up in both halls. If you did not have a chance to fill in Parent View you can do so at the school website and also see the results – go to 'About us' and then 'Ofsted'. (Remember, though, that the survey is anonymous so if you have a specific point to raise please contact the school so that it can be addressed.) It was good to see how many of you would recommend Granby to other parents and felt your child was happy at school.

Although Mr Fowler and the Senior Management Team (not the governors) are responsible for the day to day running of Granby school, it is essential that governors can make time to visit during the day to get to know the school properly by seeing it in action. We need to do this to be able to make the correct strategic decisions that take the school forward. Governors have to monitor that school policies and initiatives are in place and we do this during our daytime visits, too.

Pupils are used to seeing governors in school and it is an opportunity for us to ask the children for their views. When we visit a classroom now, we are greeted by the Class Ambassador, a pupil appointed to tell any classroom visitor about the lesson taking place and the current learning objective. It is good to see the life skills being developed by the children as they take on this Ambassador role.

Suggestions and comments to governors are welcome at any time and can be left at the school office.

Yours sincerely,
Glenys Mulvany,
Chair of Governors





Congratulations!

Probably the biggest news for Granby relating to personnel is the appointment of Dale Cross as Deputy Head Teacher! Most of you will know Mr Cross and agree with us that this is great news for the school. The governors put him through a very demanding two day interview process to ensure he has the right skills, attitude and commitment to be the best second in command to Mr Fowler we could hope for our children. If you get a chance to ask him about it he will certainly confirm that it was a grueling process. The governors were impressed with his incredible efforts and his obvious desire to be, not just a Deputy Head, but a Deputy Head for Granby particularly. It really did seem to be important to him and he gave it his all; against really strong opposition too. He will be in his new job from September 2016.



Breaking news!

A new Deputy means that we are saying goodbye to Miss Murphy, our current Deputy on her retirement, as you will, of course, have already heard. There really is not room here to detail the wonderful things she has done for the children of Granby over the many years she has worked for them. She might not like the phrase "many years" there! Everyone knows what great dedication and service she has provided and we will all miss her guidance, support and leadership: pupils, parents, staff, Mr. Fowler and the governors. Indeed, anyone who knows the school and Aylestone. However, we are hoping to continue the school's relationship with Miss Murphy and you will see her in September, back to carry on contributing to Granby's progress.

The icing on the cake

Another goodbye is to Mrs Naidoo in Year 1. She is putting down her marking pen and picking up an icing bag to start a cake making business and vintage tea room after half term. We wish her the best of success in this new endeavor and remind her that if she ever needs any tasters we have lots of little (and probably not so small) volunteers! Paul Hollywood, you have been warned.



Assistant Head

There are other changes the governors are planning regarding the staffing of Granby. From September we have decided to add an Assistant Head Teacher to the management team. This change needs first to go through a process of consultations with staff representatives, such as the teaching unions. This is always the case when a governing body want to make a fundamental change to the structure of a school. We have already decided that we want this role to go to a teacher from the incredible pool of talent and experience we are fortunate to have in the school. The Assistant Head will start in September and, along with Mr Fowler, Mr Cross and other senior teachers, they will be an essential member of the team forging Granby's continued success over the coming years.



New faces

The appointment of an Assistant Head Teacher, along with Mrs Naidoo leaving, will mean that there will be opportunities for new staff to join our already strong classroom teaching team. It is Mr Fowler's job to manage these appointments and the governors and staff will support him in this. You can expect to see some new faces in September.

Supporting staff

Finally, the governors can report that on-going performance reviews are being carried out by the school's senior staff. This is a government requirement but it is also a sensible process which means we are never resting on our laurels. In the review programme all teachers are set demanding targets to both develop them professionally and ensure the children get the best education, support and nurturing they deserve in a wonderful environment.

