

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

Coppetts Wood School and
Children Centre

Autumn Term 2016

Welcome to the Autumn Term Governor's Newsletter

This term has sped by with the usual itinerary of governing body activities and meetings. The meetings are important and necessary but it has also been very nice this term to spend time participating in the life of the school. During a morning visit I was able to attend an assembly and also spend some time with our reception class. As usual both experiences were very enjoyable and gave a great insight into all the hard work that both children and staff put into learning and teaching.

Along with some other governors I was also able to attend the key stage two Christmas show. I have seen several of these over the years and I am always impressed but this year's show was one of the best. All the more impressive for the limited time available to prepare and rehearse.

The governing body continues to evolve with a few more changes to report this term. Parent governor, Vincent Lo, resigned at the beginning of term and has been replaced by Maria Brooks Labonne following her successful election to the role. We have also appointed a new co-opted governor, Mahnvir Singh. Both Maria and Mahnvir bring some strong skills and experience to the governing body and I wish them every success in their roles.

The future funding of schools has been in the

headlines recently. The government plans to announce a new funding formulae, which will see a lot of London schools lose out as funding is redistributed to under performing rural schools. Adequate funding for all schools would be ideal but this isn't the world we live in. The combination of the new funding formulae and recent increases to national insurance and pension payments have created a certain amount of strain on the school budget. Coppetts is more fortunate than most schools with a healthy contingency but this won't last forever and balancing the budget in the future will be a challenge.

Discussions continue with the Local Authority on their proposal to build residential houses and flats in the school car park. Planning permission has not yet been approved by the planning committee who are concerned by the proposal to build a new car park on the school playing fields. The planning team are reviewing the proposal to see if there are any alternative solutions. We await their response with interest.

I hope that you and your family have a very peaceful and restful Christmas break and enjoy a successful new year.

You can contact the governors via the school office or contact me directly on brucemcgill@yahoo.com

Bruce McGill - Chair of Governors

Governor profile - Arjun Mittra

I am delighted to return to Coppetts Wood School after 18 years, though this time as a school Governor rather than a pupil! I was born and grew up on Firs Avenue on the other side of the North Circular, so South Friern and Muswell Hill are very familiar places to me. I remember my time here with great fondness, and it is a pleasure to still have wonderful familiar faces such as Mrs Jamieson and Mr King! I am determined to repay the wonderful time I had at Coppetts Wood and make sure the next generations have as great a time as I did.

This time I am back as a Local Authority Governor through being a Councillor for East Finchley ward (where I live) on Barnet Council. I feel that my position as a Councillor will be helpful to the school in providing links and access to senior Council officers, as well as senior London politicians. In my day job I work for the London Assembly at City Hall for Andrew Dismore, the London Assembly Member for Barnet and Camden, who very much enjoyed his visit to the school in November.

I have also been a Governor at Friern Barnet School since 2010, which I hope provides a good link for this school to a local secondary.

Outside of politics, I enjoy cricket, travel and history. I am an organiser of the East Finchley festival and am involved in local charities.

The Governor team

Bruce McGill - Chair of Governors

Miriam Gopaul - Vice Chair of Governors

Tom Mason - Chair of Finance committee

Heidi Southall - Co opted Governor

Liz Purkis - Chair of Children and Communities committee

John Timothy Kamara - Co opted Governor

Maria Anastase - Chair of Staffing committee

Grace Hussey - Co opted Governor

Mahnvir Singh - Co opted Governor

Maria Brooks Labonne - Parent Governor

Diana Roberts - Whiley - Parent Governor

Arjun Mittra - Local Authority Governor

Sarah Deale - Headteacher

Zoe Wydmanski - Co opted Governor

Julie Locke - Support Staff Governor

Faramade Alawaye - Non voting observer