

# DECEMBER NEWS



Dear Parents, Carers, Governors, Staff and Pupils

## COVID Update

As mentioned in the previous update, the local authority believe that we should keep in school until the end of term. The government have just announced that schools can have an option to finish earlier on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December to 'allow teachers who are involved in track and trace 6 clear days before Christmas so they can have a real break'. This does not help school at all really, as it only changes the length of time we need to track and trace by one day. This day will also take away one of the INSET days next year which will further complicate things.

In reality the track and trace element only applies to two people in the school who deal with it and over the Christmas period it will be one person which is myself.

I have discussed this with the local Headteachers and they have agreed to do the same and agree with the reasons I have given. It will also have little effect on Christmas Day if people need to isolate for 14 days.

Obviously this could all be subject to change if we are given further information by the Local Authority or the Government.

As we move towards the end of term it is important as a school we stay vigilant. There is an impression that once school has ended on Friday, every thing will be ok. This is not the case. As mentioned above, we are required to keep tracking and tracing through the next week. This is because we can still be affected from the last day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

There could be a scenario where a parent can report symptoms on Sunday (20<sup>th</sup>), get a test on Monday (21<sup>st</sup>) or Tuesday (22<sup>nd</sup>) and not get results until Thursday (24<sup>th</sup>) especially if they are posted. If it is positive we would be contacting parents to isolate as it is required by law.

This is why the next two weeks are important to everyone in school so it does not affect Christmas.

**Please can you think carefully about the contacts you are making and who you are making them with when away from school.**

The school has done a great deal to keep children and the wider community safe by keeping class bubbles and we do not want them to be compromised. We need to ensure everyone is being just as careful as soon as they go home. If children are positive and are asked to isolate we will ask about other contacts with other children in school. We need to do this for the safety of everyone within the school community.

**Please remember you only need to have a test if you or your child has symptoms.**

If you do have a positive test for your child, please let us know as soon as possible by either phoning within school hours or by phoning 07399355450 out of normal school hours (evenings, weekends, and holidays). This number is only to be used to report positive results for a pupil.

Suspected cases, and positive results for members of the household can still be notified by email to [office@kirkella.eriding.net](mailto:office@kirkella.eriding.net).

If your child is already in one of the isolating class bubbles and they develop symptoms or receive a positive test result please notify the school on the email address above, as we must report on all cases.

# The Governing Body Needs You

We currently have two vacancies coming up on our Governing Body. One is a Parent governor role due to their term of office coming to an end in the spring term and the other is a co-opted Governor.

Parent governors are elected by parents and co-opted governors are elected by the Governing Body as they have specific skills which will help the school. e.g. finance, a role in education, safeguarding.

If you would like to be considered for a parent governor post or would like further details please read the information at the end of the newsletter. If you feel you might be useful as a co-opted governor then please contact the school and a member of the governing body will contact you.

This is a valuable role and the governing body do a great deal to shape the way the school moves in the future.



## Christmas Fair

This will pop up on our Youtube channel from 6pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Please subscribe to the channel if you can. Thank you to all of you who have entered the Bake Off. This is now closed as we try and put the video together for Friday. There will be a vote for the Bake Off and a link will be sent to you during the video to vote with. These will be separate votes for each year group and it will only be sent to parents in that year group. We have decided to have a winner and runner up prize for each year group as we have had so many entries. Thank you also for all the raffle tickets that have been bought. I will do the draw on the video on Friday. There will also be adverts for the crafts the children have made and these can be bought on Parent Pay as well.

I hope you are looking forward to hearing the wonderful singing!

Please remember it is the Santa Dash on Friday and the children will be running a mile so they will need some warm kit! If they want to wear Christmas hats they can but please make sure they are named.



## Foundation and Year 1 Christmas plays

These will be put on Youtube on Monday at 10am. This will be kept up for the Christmas period and then taken down in January.

Each class have produced a DVD of the show and this will be on sale for £5 on Parent Pay. This enables us to cover our costs.

## Gifts for Staff

Thank you again to those parents who have asked about gifts for staff. As mentioned before, this is not expected but if you want to send a gift, please have them in school by Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December so they can be quarantined.



## Picking up from school

If you require your child to be picked up from school, please can you ensure that each person picking up is **over 16**. We are not allowed to release your child otherwise.

Please can you also ensure you are there to pick up your child at the time given. This includes those classes that leave at 3.15pm. Staff are having to wait over ten minutes at times with parents not collecting until their other child is leaving at 3.25pm.

## School Diary Autumn

Autumn 2020	Activity	Autumn 2020	Activity
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa Dash	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 2, 3 and 4 Parties
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Online Christmas Fair on YouTube at 6pm	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation and Year 1 Christmas Play up onto YouTube	Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> December – Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 and 6 parties	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Training Day
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Foundation and Year 1 parties	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School Starts



# Could you be our next Parent Governor?

## *We are seeking a person who fits the following description:*

- Currently has a child or children in our school;
- Has an open and enquiring mind;
- Shows a willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- Is able to work well with others;
- Is interested in education generally and our school in particular;
- Has a desire to play a part in improving our school; and
- Is willing to give about 20 hours per term to attend meetings, visit the school and training.
- Some experience in Safeguarding and Child Protection is preferable.

## *In return we can offer:*

- An insight into the wider perspective of the school through long-term planning;
- A chance to develop skills in strategic management;
- The opportunity to work with our team of governors and staff in improving our school;
- Training to develop an understanding of specific school management issues;
- The support and assistance of local and county staff;
- A sense of achievement in making a difference to our school; and
- The pleasure of seeing children learning.

## *The governing body of our school is responsible for:*

- Ensuring that pupils receive high quality education and that the conduct of the school reflects this aim;
- Working with the headteacher on the strategic planning and management of the school;
- Considering and agreeing the aims and policies of the school;
- Discussing and approving the targets for improvement;
- Appointing the staff;
- Setting and monitoring the budget;
- Monitoring the performance of the school; and
- Reporting to the parents and community on how we have accomplished our tasks.

## **GOVERNORS LINK COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS**

Governors are the link between the school and the community and representatives of all those with an interest in the well-being and reputation of the school are needed.

We are all volunteers working in our own time, and we are all busy people. However we feel that we gain much in personal development as well as a feeling of satisfaction that we have played an important part in improving education in the local community. There are opportunities to work with others on all aspects of strategic planning and management including financial oversight and personnel issues. Although we deal with the total school finances, we employ staff to do the actual work on our behalf, just as we take an interest in the teaching but employ teachers to actually teach the pupils.

## **TEAM WORKING**

We work together as a team. Sometimes the whole governing body is involved and sometimes we work in smaller committees or working groups. This gives us the chance to develop specific interests of our own as well as for the benefit of the whole governing body.

## **DIFFERENT PEOPLE**

The governing body seeks individuals from as many different backgrounds as possible in order to fully reflect the community the school serves. Everyone has something to offer. Specific training (free) is available to develop an understanding of school finance and budgeting, strategic planning, and personnel issues and there are staff in both local education offices and headquarters who are there to support and advise individuals and the governing body in their responsibilities.

## **REPRESENTING PARENTS**

As a parent governor you would be a representative of the parents, but you would not be mandated to vote on their behalf. It may be useful to get the general feelings from parents on various issues from time to time, but in seeking to fill the post of parent governor, the governing body are looking for someone who will help them see the school from the widest possible viewpoint. Parents are vital to the work of the governing body. As a parent governor you will be a governor in your own right with the same responsibilities as everyone else to work together as part of the governing body for the good of the school. Some of the business of the Governing Body will need to be strictly confidential.

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Governors can make a real difference to the performance of the school and have a significant part to play in making the school successful. If you are interested in joining us to help improve education for the children in this school, please complete the attached form and return to school by the date shown.

If you would like an informal, no obligation, discussion with an existing member of the Governing Body please leave your details at Reception and this can be arranged for you.

## Who can be Governor

In the interest of safeguarding children it will be necessary for your application to undergo a vetting process. Criminal records may be disclosed because being a governor is covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Exemption Act.

A governor must be aged 18 or over at the time of their election or appointment. A person cannot hold more than one governorship at the same school. Registered pupils cannot be governors.

A person is disqualified from being a governor or associate member if they:

- have a mental disorder and are detained under the Mental Health Act 1983
- are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order or their estate has been sequestrated and the sequestration has not been discharged, annulled or reduced
- are subject to a disqualification order or disqualification undertaking under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, a disqualification order under Part 2 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, a disqualification undertaking accepted under the Company Directors Disqualification (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, or to an order made under section 429 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986
- have been removed from the office of charity trustee or trustee for a charity by the Charity Commissioners or High Court on grounds of any misconduct or mismanagement, or under section 34 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 from being concerned in the management or control of anybody
- are included in the list of teachers or workers considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children or young people
- are disqualified from working with children or from registering for childminding or providing day care
- are disqualified from being an independent school proprietor, teacher or employee by the Secretary of State
- have been sentenced to 3 months or more in prison (without the option of a fine) in the 5 years before becoming a governor or since becoming a governor
- have received a prison sentence of 2.5 years or more in the 20 years before becoming a governor
- have at any time received a prison sentence of 5 years or more
- have been fined for causing a nuisance or disturbance on school premises during the 5 years prior to or since appointment or election as a governor; refuse to an application being made to the Criminal Records Bureau for a criminal records certificate.

## Summary of Governor Skills Requirements

**General:** all governors need these skills

**Specialist:** these skills need to be represented across the Governing Body but every governor is not expected to have all the Specialist skills.

<i>General</i>	<i>Specialist</i>
Strong commitment to the role	Safeguarding
Improving outcomes for children	Special Educational Needs
Inquisitiveness to question and analyse	Analysis of performance data
Willingness to learn	Workforce/employment
Interpersonal skills	Budgeting/financial management
English/numerical skills	Community connections
Commitment to Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Health and safety
Understanding of governance and the operation of committees	Strategic planning

Please return your completed application form by 12pm, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

If there are more applicants than vacancies a ballot of parents will be held.



# ***Parent Governor Application***

All the information on this form is confidential and will be held in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018

The application is online and can be found using the following link:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/governorsapplicationform/>

You will be asked some details and to give personal statement of no more the 100 words, explaining why you want to be considered for the role.