



Together We Achieve

Governor Newsletter

Spring 2020

Message from Gareth Hughes, Chair of Governors

Welcome back after the half term break! This is our first Governors' Newsletter of 2020.

We've had a busy start to the year and are delighted to welcome Miss Fogg as our new Head Teacher! We're looking forward to working together as a Governing Body to help identify and deliver opportunities to make our school an even better place to learn and work, built on the strong foundations created by Meryl and the team.

Miss Fogg brings with her lots of experience from other schools and we're already using this to help us make positive changes in the school, including introducing our weekly 'Swanwick Story' update.

Before the half term break, you'll have seen our letter via 'Swanwick Story', which covered some Safeguarding changes we've made at the start and end of the school day. The safety and wellbeing of your children is the most important focus for our Staff and Governors. Having reviewed these changes and consulted with a number of parents and external teams, we're making them to ensure the safety of the children in our care during the busy start and end of the school day.

I understand that there will be lots of different views as we make changes like this, but I hope you will all appreciate they are made with safeguarding in mind. We will monitor how things are working as the changes bed in and also listen to feedback from your perspective too.

We're always looking to improve how we operate as a Governing Body and so we're changing how some of our committees work and how we visit and monitor the activity at the school, starting with our Curriculum and Learning Committee. Look out for a further update in our next newsletter on this.

Finally, we have a vacancy on the Governing Body, details of which you will find on the school website. If you'd like to join us to help our school develop and grow, please send in your application, or contact me if you'd like to know more about the role.

What is happening with the Governors at the moment?

We have just had our third full Governor meeting of the school year. Last month, one of our Governors attended finance training and several Governors attended monitoring and evaluation training. As Governors, we are always looking how we can improve our skills in order to assist us in supporting staff within the school, working with them to ensure the school is a happy learning environment for the children. More training is planned for March for two of the Governors and Governors can also complete online training at a time to suit them.

The Governors are in the process of reviewing the School policies. These can be found on the school website.

School Activities

Last term was very busy with numerous activities including the Halloween disco, the parents' meeting to cover year 2 expectations, a reading breakfast and book fayre. Year 2 children also had a Victorian day in December and had the opportunity to wear Victorian clothing, take part in lessons that would have been held in school during the Victorian times and even the staff dressed up! Key stage two learnt about several key figures during Black History Month and the importance of this. We ended the

year with the wonderful Christmas performances from our EYFS and year one children along with performances from children in other years within the school.

Friends of Swanwick Primary

The Friends of Swanwick Primary School raise funds to support the children and to purchase resources for the school. Over the years they have successfully held many fundraising activities which include school discos, Mothers and Father's Day stalls, an annual Summer BBQ and film nights for the children. Friends of Swanwick Primary are actively looking for new members to join the committee. If you feel you can offer any support to help at the events and spare a few hours of your time please contact the Chair of Friends, Katie Crockett on swanwickfriends@gmail.com

Get to know the Governors

We are looking at ways we can interact with Parents, Grandparents and Carers of Children within the school and look at holding an informal event where you can meet the Governors and have the opportunity to have a chat and a cuppa! If this is something you would be interested in attending, please contact us. If we receive much interest, we will inform you of the date, time and place via Parent Hub and Swanwick Story.

Governor insight

Hi, I'm Rebecca and I am one of the Governors at Swanwick Primary School. I'm still quite new to it all but wanted to introduce myself and give a little insight as to what it's all about! I first enquired about becoming a Governor when a vacancy came up, all of the staff and Governors were really welcoming; I was interested in becoming a Governor to gain a deeper understanding of what happens at school, having a daughter here myself.

Having studied Health and social Care at University I have a keen interest in safeguarding and wanted a role to utilise and build on these skills. Swanwick Primary has been great in encouraging a different range of training that all Governors are able to take part in. Governors are from a range of different backgrounds which makes for interesting discussions and brings so many skills to the governing board. We meet regularly to discuss what is currently happening within school, such as safeguarding, current curriculum activities, what events Friends are holding or address any upcoming issues.

In my short time so far as a Governor, it has opened my eyes to just how much work goes on that as parents, we may not necessarily see. It is such an interesting role to be involved in and very rewarding. A Governor's role is to support the school as well as present challenge when needed to consistently ensure the school is accountable and provides the best possible learning environment for our children. After all, the children don't get this opportunity again!

Further information can be found on the School Governors at www.swanwick.sch.uk or contact us at governor@swanwick.derbyshire.sch.uk

Swanwick Primary School Governing Body