

# [impact!]

## Governor Newsletter

Welcome to the Autumn term issue of [impact!] your St Andrew's CE Primary School governor newsletter.

In this issue we share with you the feedback we received from the parent and pupil questionnaire from Summer and the actions we will be taking following this feedback.

We also introduce you to our new Chair of Governors, discuss how we are using the Pupil Premium funding to provide our pupils with an excellent education and answer one of your questions on British values.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Please get in touch with us if you have any questions. May we also take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*The Governors*



# Meet your Governing Body

On July 16th the governing body reconstituted to form a smaller, more focused and responsive team. We also voted in a new Chair of Governors. The names of our governors are listed below.

Drew Cunliffe / Chair of Governors

Julie Roebuck / Vice Chair of Governors

Karen Leyland / Head Teacher

Stephen Gibbison

Saurabh Bhandari

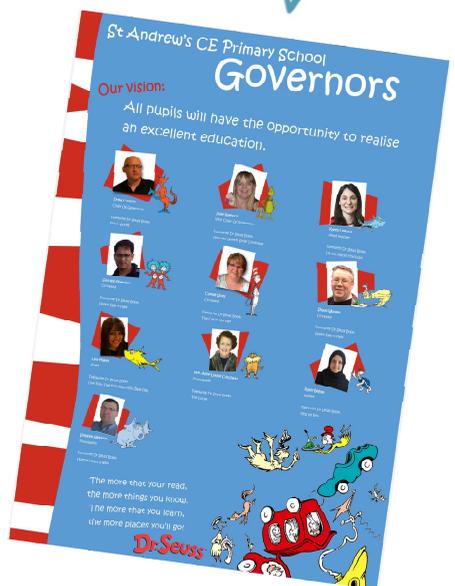
Shaun Worsley

Lisa Maher

Rev. Anne-Louise Critchlow

Rufie Begum

*Check out our new poster the next time you visit the school. Inspired by Dr Seuss!*



# Our Chair of Governors, Drew Cunliffe

Drew has been a Local Authority Governor at St Andrew's since 2011. During that time he has been on the Buildings and Finance Committee and designs and runs the school website and this newsletter. He is also currently the Year Group Governor for Year 6 together with focusing on the computing curriculum and PE including Sports Premium.

Pupils from Year 6 recently asked Drew some questions, which he answers below.

## Why did you want to be a governor?

To help provide children in my local area with a great education, opportunities to succeed and the chance to start off well in education.

## Do you like the children at St Andrews?

Yes. I have met many wonderful children at St Andrew's.

## Have you fallen out with each other when you make decisions?

We do have many discussions and sometimes we do disagree. However, we are all working towards the benefit of the school and therefore they are always constructive discussions and we work towards finding the best solution for everyone.

## What have your other jobs been?

I work full time alongside being a governor. For the past eight years I have been a Business Support Manager for Northern Europe in the paper industry. The job is all about supporting and training people in computing.

## How does it feel to be in charge of a school?

Miss Leyland is in charge of the School. As Chair of Governors I work very closely with Miss Leyland to challenge and support the work they are doing and to ensure the School meets national standards.

## Is it hard being a governor?

Like most things you get back what you put in. So whilst I do work very hard as a governor I also get a lot back from it.

## What's your favourite moment of this year?

At St Andrew's I have two favourite moments so far this year. The first becoming Chair of Governors and the second would be getting to know Year 6 much better.



# Parent and pupil feedback questionnaire

In July we sent out a questionnaire for parents and pupils. Below we highlight what you like about St Andrews, where you think we can do better and what actions we will be taking.



## Where we are doing well

The great news is that both parents and pupils love the teachers and staff we have at St Andrew's and also the family friendly atmosphere and humour abound in the school.

We received lots of positive comments from parents regarding the care, support and pastoral care from the School's support staff and in general the majority of parents are happy with how the school is run.

Pupils on the other hand love the Golden Time activities available and having the opportunity to make lots of new friends within the School.



## What you would like the Governors to start doing

Both parents and pupils have requested the governors have more of a presence within the school. To address this, starting in September 2014, we introduced year group governors. The year group governors will each be assigned a class, and stay with that class as they progress throughout their time at St Andrews. It is envisaged that they will visit the class at least once per term and be present at events, trips etc. that their year group is participating in.

Both parents and pupils had the same view requesting us to look at the space within the



School with a view to increasing it. Unfortunately we are severely restricted by the age and size of the building. However, we have taken some important steps to improve the space within the school investing in two outside class areas, one in each playground plus the enhancements to the outside space within early years. We have also allocated further funds to improve the appearance of the school, with several classrooms being redecorated over the summer, together with our new Harry Potter staircase!

Pupils have asked for more playground and PE equipment. We have highlighted this for the Buildings and Finance Committee who will review it with a view to allocating additional funds.

Finally both parents and pupils that completed the questionnaire requested that we look at changing the uniform. We feel that, when followed, the current uniform requirements are smart and presentable and instil pride within St Andrew's. Based on this therefore we have no plans to look at changing the uniform in the near future. Further guidance to all parents will be communicated in 2014/15 to ensure all pupils follow the current uniform policy.



## Where we could do better

The feedback we received at the end of Summer from parents was to provide stable teachers. This was a key focus for us last year at all meetings and the Senior Leadership Team at the school worked tirelessly to address any staffing issues last academic year. For 2014/15 we have in place an excellent mix of teachers and support staff who are, as always, fully committed to providing your children with the very best education and experiences. We are sure you agree that the level of stability so far this year has been excellent.

Communication was another key theme, particularly in regards to events. We have now published an events calendar on the website for the full year. Dates are subject to change however so always check with your child's teacher.

Thank you to all parents and pupils that completed the questionnaire. Your thoughts are important to us. We have discussed the results in great detail and come up with an action plan to address all of the issues raised. We will repeat the questionnaire in Summer 2015 in order to continue to listen to your views. You can always contact us or feedback at any time of the school year.



# Your questions

I've seen a lot in the press at the moment about British values in schools. What are these and how do they affect St Andrew's?

The Department of Education (DfE) are keen on promoting British values as part of SMSC (social, moral, spiritual and cultural education) with the aim to ensure that young people leave schools prepared for life in modern Britain. The values which were first set out by the government in the 'Prevent' strategy in 2011 are: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Schools must now "actively promote" British values. Ofsted and the independent inspectorates also take the work of schools in this area into account during inspections.

At St Andrew's we promote these values in various ways including pupils voting for student council and golden time activities. Our Golden Rules, behaviour policy and assemblies encompass rule of law and individual liberty. We also promote mutual respect through circle time, assemblies, creative weeks, educational visits and some of the work our pupils create, e.g. poems, class novels etc.

Coming in the Spring issue of [impact!] we will have a feature article in more depth on how St Andrew's is promoting British values.

If you have a question you would like featured in the newsletter please email [standrewsgovernors@outlook.com](mailto:standrewsgovernors@outlook.com) or drop a note off at the office.

## GOVERNOR DROP IN SESSIONS

From the questionnaire we ran in Summer over 96% of parents who filled in the questionnaire wanted the governors to run drop in sessions where you could come along and ask us questions in a relaxed environment. Our first session for the Autumn term was on Friday September

26th, from 1430-1530. Unfortunately, despite sending letters home and a text message reminder we had very few parents visit us during the hour. We will run another dedicated session in the Spring term, details to follow closer to the time.

*For personal issues please remember to speak to your class teacher or head teacher first.*

# Buildings and finance update: Pupil Premium

Every school receives Pupil Premium funding for some of their pupils. The money is used to ensure our children receive the best possible standard of care, education, challenge, support and stimulating opportunities. Over the past few months we have been updating the school website with lots of information on Pupil Premium and how we are spending the funding this year, this even includes an introductory video to give you all the details. We are continuing to fund many successful initiatives to support our pupils in reaching their potential. Some of the initiatives are discussed further below.

## How will Pupil Premium make an impact on our pupils this year?

### Staffing

The largest spend of the Pupil Premium funding is allocated against staffing expenditure. This enhances the development of our Pupil and Family Support team, which is made up of our Family Support Manager, Mrs Hall, our Inclusion Manager/Behaviour Mentor, Mrs Maher and many Teaching Assistants who hold intervention sessions with our pupils.



See the Pupil Premium  
Section of our website  
for a guide to  
assessment levels and  
the impact on 2013/14  
progression and  
attainment.

Our Family Support Manager works with the pupils and their families to ensure we are supporting all our pupils academically, emotionally and socially. Our Inclusion Manager works with all our Pupil Premium pupils to ensure that the targeted intervention sessions provide a balanced and broad level of support and provision.

As well as working across the whole school both Mrs Hall and Mrs Maher liaise with outside agencies to ensure that parents/carers have access to the right support at the right time.

## Think2Read

Tying in with one of our key academic priorities for 2014/15, reading, a part of the pupil premium funding has been allocated to Think2Read. The Think2Read programme helps us to teach reading comprehension skills from early years upwards. Pupils learn progressive skills that show them how to question, find meaning for themselves and become enthusiastic readers with a passion for group enquiry.

## Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader (AR) encourages substantial differentiated reading practice to create strong readers across all our year groups. AR can be used with all pupils, including struggling and reluctant readers, gifted and talented, pupils who have English as an additional language and those with special educational needs.

These are just three of the ways Pupil Premium is making a positive impact on our pupils progression and attainment for 2014/15. To read much more about the ways we are spending the funding, to watch our new video, and see the impact Pupil Premium made to our pupils from 2013/14 visit our website at the below link;

<http://standrewsprimaryschooleccles.weebly.com/pupil-premium.html>

# Staffing and curriculum update: Why attendance & punctuality matter

A key factor in raising levels of achievement in our school is establishing a regular pattern of attendance and punctuality. Our children cannot achieve if they are absent from school. Positive attitudes towards attendance and punctuality enable pupils to maximise their opportunities, both at school and in later life. The greater the attendance the greater the achievement.

Drew and Julie recently attended a Governor training course that dealt with School Attendance. The Governors feel it is extremely important to keep up to date with information provided by the Department of Education and the Local Authority. With that in mind we have devised the infographic on the next page to highlight some of the facts and figures about attendance and the impact on pupil outcomes, some of which are quite astonishing.

There are 175 non school days in a year, which gives families ample time to go on holiday, visit family, attend appointments or spend time together. Being absent from school has a negative effect on children's learning and ability to achieve.

If you any issues concerning your child's attendance or punctuality, please do not hesitate to contact school. We have many support systems in place and are more than willing to provide any advice and help that may be needed.

We would like to thank all pupils and parents/carers who get to school ready for the start of day on time and do not take holidays in term time. As you can see from the next page this goes a very long way to ensuring success throughout all your time at primary school and beyond!

Many of our pupils achieve over  
**96%** attendance over the year!  
**Thank you.**



See the School website for term dates for this and next academic year. You can also see our holidays in term time policy too!



# The effects of attendance & punctuality

**96%** attendance is our target for all pupils



10 days absence = 95% attendance

19 days absence = 90% attendance.

**90%**

attendance is equivalent to



0.5 days missed per week  
or  
4 whole weeks of lessons!

Social & mental effects of absence



Underachievement  
Loss of confidence, due to lack of understanding  
Breaks the continuity of learning and pupils miss important work

The importance of  
**TIME**



Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.



Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.

Being late disturbs the whole class.

**# Future Trends**



Pupils with over 90% attendance throughout education are more likely to gain 5 or more A\* to C GCSEs or equivalent.

## Our vision

All pupils will have the opportunity to realise an excellent education.

## Our mission

St Andrew's will be a learning inspired, safe, supportive and creative environment, providing opportunities for success for all pupils and staff which will strengthen our communities

## What we do

Working closely with the Senior Leadership Team, the main responsibility of governing bodies are defined in three key areas;

- Ensuring that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school are clearly defined;
- Ensuring that the head teacher performs her responsibilities for the educational performance of the school;
- Ensuring the sound, proper and effective use of the schools financial resources.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
from all the governors!



Next issue out Spring 2015.



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St Andrew CE Primary School (Eccles) Governor Newsletter

Newsletter designed and edited by Drew Cunliffe

Final image background by [www.made-in-england.org](http://www.made-in-england.org)