

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER

Jan 2010

Dear Parents & Carers

Firstly, we would like to wish each and every one of you a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Our termly newsletter aims to keep you up to date with school news, events and general information.

Should you have any queries on any of the information in this newsletter please don't hesitate to contact any one of us directly or, alternatively, please use the post-box in the school reception.

Recent School Closures

First of all we would like to say a huge thank you to all parents for your patience and understanding during the recent school closures due to the snow. As you will appreciate the wellbeing of the children is the school's priority and taking all factors in to consideration a decision to close the school for four days in total during the first two weeks of the year was taken by the school and the governing body. Communication of this decision was impressive and largely due to the use of the school's own website (www.surrey.school.jotter.com/bisley), sending Parentmail messages as well as regular updates to Eagle Radio and Surrey County Council. Of course parents' assistance with texts and e-mails is extremely helpful as well. We were pleased to have been able to open the school in between the heavy snowfall (albeit with a few logistical adjustments) and we were delighted with the efforts of the children, parents and staff in ensuring that this was as smooth as possible. Of course, every effort is made to keep the school open during periods of extreme weather but in the event of further heavy snowfall the same methods of communication will be used so please do continue to check the website. As always in these circumstances a full review of action taken will be carried out by the Governors and we will feed back to you on this in our next newsletter.

Staff News

At the end of last term we said a sad Goodbye to Mrs Langston. This term starts on a happier note as we say a Great Big HELLO to Mrs Jackson who will be teaching Kingfishers class in KS1. The Governors hope you will be very happy at Bisley.

The Governors would also like to take this opportunity to offer their Congratulations to Mrs Hastings who recently announced to the children that she is expecting a baby of her own. We will inform you of arrangements for covering Mrs Hastings' maternity leave closer to the time.

Homework

Some parents have expressed concerns over the levels / frequency of homework being sent home. Some parents feel that there is too much homework and others feel that there is not enough. The Governors are carrying out a review of homework and would like to canvass opinions from parents. To this end we will be present at the forthcoming parental reviews (8 & 9 February) and will be handing out a questionnaire for you to complete. We appreciate your assistance in doing this and we will get back to you having reviewed the feedback we receive.

FOBS

The governors would like to thank everybody for their continued support of FOBS. So far this academic year FOBS have raised around £2,000. This money will be used for a variety of projects in school. Some of these funds will be used to pay 10% of the costs incurred on capital projects. As a Voluntary Aided School we must raise this 10% to release the remaining 90% from government funds for supporting and maintaining school buildings. We would like to thank the current FOBS committee for organising and running so many events during the term. We are also delighted that they have also managed to receive Registered Charity status for FOBS which will unlock many additional ways for us to raise vital funds for the school. We very much look forward to this terms events and hope to see lots of you at the forthcoming quiz night on the 27th February. Should you wish to contact FOBS you can e-mail them at:

fobs@bisley.surrey.sch.uk

Parking

No Governor newsletter would be complete without a mention of the school's parking policy. For those of you who are unaware, the school has adopted a voluntary one-way system around Hawthorn Way as well as a "no car" zone in the cul-de-sac at school drop off and collection times. For the main part this system works very well and the majority of parents support the policy thus making the cul-de-sac area safer for the children. However, some parents continue to park and turn around near to the school gates and we would urge ALL parents not to do this as we view that it is unsafe for the children. For those parents who wish to drop off their older children without having to park, the policy also includes a drop off zone at the top of Elm Grove, which is also detailed in the policy. Keeping the drop off zone clear of parked cars will ensure that traffic can flow freely in the mornings. Copies of the map showing the one way system and drop off area have been put up on the notice boards around school for your reference and a copy of the Parking Policy can be found on the school website or obtained from the school office.

Dogs

Please be aware that dogs are not permitted to enter the school grounds unless by invitation of the governors. For further details please see the policy which can also be found on the school website.

Parentmail

If you have signed up for Parentmail but did not receive any e-mails or text messages during the school closures it might be because your Parentmail account requires updating or authenticating. Just log on to their website and you will be able to find out if this is the case. (www.parentmail.co.uk) If you haven't already signed up to this service it is well worth your doing so. It's a great way for the school to keep in touch with you and the weekly school newsletter goes out via this medium. Any urgent communications are sent by text and other messages are sent by e-mail. The service is free to parents to use as the school currently pays for the messages to be sent.

Scooters & Cycles

Please could parents ensure that children do not ride scooters or bicycles in the school grounds.

Governor Roles

Please find below some of the specific Governor roles. Further information can be obtained on the website.

Chair - Karen Siegmund

Vice Chair - Rebecca Claesen

Clerk to Governors - Bronwen Hall

Special Responsibilities

Rights Respecting:	Karen Siegmund
Looked After Children:	Carole Fisher
Outdoor Learning:	Simon Furlonger
Collective Worship/RE:	Richard Abbott, Sarah Belgrave, Rebecca Claesen, Jacqui Fry, Julie Holt, Maureen Vaughan
SEN & Child Protection:	Diana Merritt
FOBS :	Julie Holt, Rebecca Claesen

We hope that you find the above information helpful and informative.

Yours sincerely

Richard Abbott, Andy Armitt, Sarah Belgrave, Rebecca Claesen, Carole Fisher, Jacqui Fry, Simon Furlonger, Kate Hall, Jo Hastings, Julie Holt, Richard Johnston, Siobhan McGann, Diana Merritt, Karen Siegmund, Maureen Vaughan