

CARRDYKE FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2015

TWO SCHOOLS, ONE FAMILY
LEARNING, INSPIRING, ACHIEVING

Carrdyke Federation



Dear Parents

This month's newsletter is the first joint one focusing on governance. There have been a few changes to the membership of the Governing Body recently and I thought it would be nice if some of our newer governors, along with longer standing members, had a chance to introduce themselves.

For those new to the schools, I should explain how the federation is governed. There is a core group of seven governors who can legally govern on their own. They are able to co-opt a further eight governors chosen for their ability to represent the two communities or for their professional expertise. There is an increasing expectation that governing bodies should be small, and increasingly professional in their work. The governors have at least five full meetings a year but smaller groups meet to look at areas such as pupil achievement, finance and health and safety. Governors visit both schools to learn about the latest work undertaken to improve standards.

At Mrs Mary King's School there are also Trustees who own the land the school is built on, and manage an investment fund which provides the school with a modest additional income. Trustees often subsidise trips and in recent years have provided much of the funding to improve Class Two, such as the new cupboards, carpet and furniture.

Our federation has its roots in a collaboration which started ten years ago and was the first of its kind in Lincolnshire, so we are proud of our track record in innovation. At a time when many schools are starting to struggle with budgets, we are in the very fortunate position of being able to invest in additional staffing and continuing to develop our buildings.

Rebecca Phillips (Chair of Governors)



It's a great honour and rather a shock to have been elected to the position of Chair of Governors. I have been on the governing body for three years. My two children are in years five and four at Martin. I try to get into both schools at least one afternoon a week and this time has allowed me to really get to know the staff and children at both sites.

As the Chair, my aim is to fulfil our schools' vision of developing happy children who have a confident voice and are respected by all and who have a strong love for learning. We are very lucky to have small schools in our communities and I look forward to being part of their ongoing success. Children at our schools achieve really well, as both Ofsted inspections proved.

We have a strong, active governing body which is dedicated to maintaining and improving standards for our children in all aspects of school life. We have exciting plans for the future, which all our children will benefit from during their time with us

Chris Bradbury



Hello I am Chris Bradbury and have lived in Martin for 5 years. I am involved in Health and Safety, Complaints and Policy sub committees. I am looking forward to the many challenges ahead for the federation of governors and firmly believe that it is a team effort involving staff, pupils, governors and parents that will see both schools reach their potential. I have twin daughters who have started school this year and therefore have vested interest in ensuring we provide the best environment possible for our children to flourish.

Michelle Manning



My Name is Michelle Manning and I am the community governor for the Cardyke Federation.

My son is currently in year 4 and attends Mrs Mary Kings School.

I have worked in education for the last 15 years at both Primary and Secondary level.

I have previously been a parent governor for a large primary school.

Chris Warren



Both my children attended Walcott School some time ago, but I would like to think that I can represent the local community's interests as a governor. I have been a governor for eight years and had a spell as chair of governors at Walcott prior to the federation. I am involved in monitoring Health and Safety and have a role as one of the safeguarding governors. I always enjoy visiting the schools and seeing the changes that have occurred over recent years.

Caroline Wilson



Hello my name is Caroline Wilson. My family and I relocated to Lincolnshire a few years ago and both my daughters have enjoyed being pupils at Walcott School since then.

Last year I was delighted to be Co Opted onto the Governing Body. I am currently part of the subcommittee for school Policies and Standards and really enjoying being part of a strong team helping to realise the schools' potential.

Steve Bradbury (Vice Chair)



Hello, my name is Steve Bradbury. I'm a retired teacher who spent 27 years working in a large special school in Stoke-on-Trent, the last 15 years of which I was Deputy Head. I'm very proud of the fact that the three Ofsted inspections we had at the school, all resulted in an "outstanding" judgement.

I am deeply interested in how children learn and working with children with special needs showed the importance of individual learning and the significance of having a person centred approach. Working in an outstanding school also highlighted the importance of having high expectations of teaching and learning, where opportunities are created for every child to maximise their school life.

My wife and I moved to Lincolnshire two years ago so that we could be nearer to our grand-daughters. We live in Martin and I hope that I will be able to offer the Federation my years of educational experience to support and guide the schools and enable them to prosper and develop further, promoting even higher standards of education and achievement.

Reverend Beth Weston (Foundation Governor)



Lots of you will know me from the school church services. I am the ordained assistant priest in the Carrdyke Parish. I have regularly visited both schools for the last few years taking assemblies and collective worship. I am delighted to have the opportunity to be part of the governing body. My role will be to further strengthen the church school ethos and links with the parish at Mrs Mary King's School. I have also recently joined the school trustees and look forward to learning more about this responsibility.

Sue Allen



I have been on the governing body for 7 years. I have two children, one has left Walcott and the other is in year six. I am involved in the Finance and Complaints sub committees at present, and have previously been on the Standards committee.

As both my children have progressed successfully through the school, I have an interest in the continued development for future pupils.

Parent Governor Election Results (Martin)

It was very good to see the interest in the parent governor election. I would like to thank Mrs Millband, Mrs Steer and Mrs Busby for putting themselves forward. The returning officer has confirmed that Mrs Busby won the election, and I would like to welcome her as our new parent governor.

The parent governor position at Walcott is now vacant following Mrs Allen stepping down and becoming a co opted governor instead. Elections will be held after half term.

New Mission Statement

Whilst both the schools have their own mission statement; Working together success for all (Walcott) and Opening doors to a world of learning (Martin), the governors decided that it would be appropriate to have a joint mission statement for use in promoting the federation. They went and spoke to children and used the parental feedback gathered last year to create a new statement. The 'two schools one family' phrase came directly from the children's meeting.

Two schools, one family; Learning, Inspiring, Achieving

This has been added to the website and will be used whenever there is joint publicity work or documents.

Hot food

The completion of the kitchen is now well behind schedule. Things have been held up by the power distribution company who need to install a separate connection to the pod. They have been dragging their heels somewhat, but recent discussions suggest we should be up and running the third week after half term. As you will appreciate this is completely beyond our control.

Chef has taken away the feedback from both schools and will be sending out a revised menu shortly. It's apparent that it is impossible to please everyone, but the key to success seems to be ensuring there are popular fillings for the baked potato and baguette options daily. Hopefully this give a good choice between the main meal and the second option.

Staff from the Past

On the 6th October we were visited by Mrs Coldhurst, one of Walcott's past teachers and now in her 90's. She retired in 1985 and hadn't been back into the school since. I was a little worried how she might view the changes made in recent years, but she was delighted to see how well looked after the school was. She recalled how the school used to have out door toilets and children washed their hands in a communal open air sink. She told me how she had to collect coal and maintain the fire in her room. She was fascinated by the outdoor area for the reception class and couldn't get over the facilities we have. It's lovely to meet such people, and it does remind us of how lucky our children are today.



If there are past staff from Mrs Mary King's school, it would be lovely to meet them too...

Federation Cup



On the 24th September we held the first federation cross country of the year. There is always a great atmosphere; lots of the children know each other and everyone put in their best efforts. Walcott is always at a disadvantage with its much smaller field for practice, but the overall scores are getting closer each time and I'm sure that one day the cup will go to Walcott. Until then Martin has an unbroken record.....

Phone System

Now that Mrs Hessel has scaled back her hours at Walcott and Mrs Nicholson at Martin has become full time, we are investigating a way to improve how the phones are manned. Mrs Nicholson is both administrator for Martin and also business manager for the federation, and as such works on both budgets and deals with the finances of both schools. Our aim is to install a system that puts calls through to Martin when no one is in the office at Walcott.

Website Update

Quite a lot of new content has been added to the website recently, and staff are updating the class pages. The website builder is working with a new designer, and the general appearance will be tweaked to make it even more professional looking. The diary dates in this newsletter and ones for the rest of the year can be viewed in the calendar sections of the website. The aim is to have a section on each schools' home page for latest news, information and reminders.



Harvest Festival at Holy Trinity



Conkers Day at Walcott

Walcott Diary Dates

- 19th October: Nurse in school at 2.45pm to speak to class parents about the Fluenz inoculation programme.
- Wednesday 21st October: KS1 federation cross country.
- Thursday 23rd October: Term ends.
- Monday 2nd November: Term 2 begins.
- Wednesday 11th November: Remembrance Day service at Metheringham airfield attended by Class Four 11.00am. Open afternoon and evening for 2016 new intake parents.
- Monday 16th November: Parents Evening-3.30pm - 7.00pm
- Thursday 19th November Class 2 Fluenz vaccine day/ Nick William wildlife photographer annual visit.
- Monday 7th December Key Stage One play 2.00pm /6.00pm
- Thursday 17th December: 10.00am Christmas service at St Oswalds Church. Christmas party pm.
- Tuesday 5th January Term Three begins

Martin Village Hall Dates

- 14th November 7.00pm Family Night with Disco.
- 11th December 5.00pm - 9.00pm Kids Disco
- New Year's Eve Party –book in advance, call Zara 07445469438 or pay at village shop.

Martin Diary Dates

- Wednesday 21st October Class Four Bikeability / KS1 federation cross country.
- Thursday 22nd October: Bikeability/ Class Two parents invited to talk by school nurse about Fluenz inoculation programme 3.00pm/ Term ends
- Monday 2nd November: Term 2 begins.
- Friday 6th November: Parents invited to celebration assembly.
- Wednesday 11th November: 9.00am church assembly for Remembrance Day. Class Four attending service at Metheringham airfield
- Tuesday 17th November: Fluenz vaccination
- Thursday 19th November: Nick Williams Wildlife photographer annual visit.
- Tuesday 24th November: Open evening for 2016 intake parents
- Thursday 26th 2.30pm 'Stay and Play' afternoon for 2016 new intake children and parents / Parents evening 3.30pm-7.30pm.
- Friday 27th November 3.30pm Christmas Fair.
- Wednesday 2nd December KS2 play 2.00pm and 6.00pm
- Thursday 3rd December 6.00pm KS2 play.
- Wednesday 9th December KS1 play 2.00pm and 6.00pm
- Thursday 10th December KS1 play 6.00pm.
- Tuesday 15th December KS1 party
- Wednesday 16th December KS2 party.
- Thursday 17th December: Christmas Christingle and Carol service 2.00pm./ Term ends.
- Tuesday 5th January Term Three begins

Fluenz Vaccination

A reminder that there are dates for the Fluenz vaccination programme in the diary dates section. There will be information leaflets for those parents who can't attend, but if you have questions, please try and come to the meetings run by the school nurse. **Please note the change of time for the meeting at Martin; it's now at 3.00pm on the last day of term.**

BBC Children in Need Day

Children in Need day is Friday 13th November. I will be asking the pupil council's at both schools what they would like to do this year. They will be writing to you after half term.

Assessment Update

Since last summer we have spent a lot more time planning how we will move away from the old National Curriculum levels. From the next parents' evening we will no longer talk about 'levels'; instead the focus will be on whether children have met or will meet the requirements of their year groups curriculum content.

The expectations of what children are able to do have increased. Year Two children for example will now be taking a grammar and punctuation test, they will need to be able to do more advanced maths such as fractions.

We have consulted some of the experts who have advised us in the past and decided to use a very simple set of achievement descriptors.

Children will be either:

- **Below:** working on the curriculum from a year group below their chronological age.
- **Working Towards:** They have achieved the expectation of the year below and are starting to understand the content of their year group.
- **Secure:** They are able to demonstrate they understand **all** the content of their year group.
- **Deeper Understanding:** They can apply their knowledge and understanding of the content of their year group to lots of different situations with independence, often through problem solving and greater creativity.

The expectation is that 85% of children should be **secure** by the end of the year, with a small amount being judged to have **deeper understanding**. A big difference in this new curriculum is that children will seldom move onto content of the curriculum beyond their year group. The secure judgement is broad, and will challenge the most able children.

What does this mean at parents' evening? Well, for the majority of the year, most children will have a **working towards** judgement as they're in the process of acquiring knowledge, with the secure judgement being achieved in the summer term. Some children will remain within the **below** judgement band, and could do so year on year. This is a real concern to us as it could be rather demoralising. We have decided to subdivide this band so that it has a number showing how many

years below they are working. This will allow parents to see how a child is getting closer to their chronological year group i.e:

B3, B2, B1, W, S, D

At parents' evening staff will have assessment sheets which show exactly which content children are secure with, and what they still need to demonstrate understanding of. This means that discussions should be less about grades and much more to do with what children need to next.

New Intake Days

Both Schools have open days and evenings for the parents of children due to start school in September 2016.

Mrs Mary King's: Tuesday 24th November 6.00pm and a play and stay afternoon from 2.30pm on the 26th November. Parents are invited to bring their children and stay with them whilst they play in the classroom.

Walcott Wednesday 11th November 1.00pm and 6.00pm



Team Point Challenge Winners Martin



Class Four Children from both schools enjoying river studies at Snipedales

I hope you have found this joint newsletter informative and interesting. I will return to individual school newsletters next month. If you have ideas what you want to see in the newsletter, do let me know, they take a lot of effort to produce!!

A. Sewell