

Governors' Newsletter.

December 2020.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we come to the end of 2020, we want to thank everyone for your continued support in helping to keep the school as safe as possible, and all your efforts at home to pull together with us in keeping our children learning.

As a governing body, we have been inspired by stories of children continuing to demonstrate their love for learning. It's been so heart-warming to see them back with their friends and to hear about their continuing joy around the school! I am so proud of how our school has embraced the recovery curriculum, helping all our children strengthen their resilience, as well as our ongoing focus on supporting and giving tools to parents who need it (more information can be found in this [leaflet](#)).

We know it's been another tough term, at the end of a very tough year for us all – but as governors we look back in pride at all the school has managed to achieve. **The Governors want to thank all the staff for continuing to go above and beyond to make that happen.**

In this newsletter we also write to **ask for your inputs into the school's Behaviour Principles** -- an important document which helps shape our collective responsibilities in creating the behaviours in which every child can grow to be the best they can. Finally, we also highlight some changes at the school as we move into 2021.

Maybe as much as anything, we want to **wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and happy new year.**

Jo Walker – Vice Chair of Governors

Consultation on our Behaviour Principles

The Governing Body has a duty to produce a written statement of general principles (this is a statutory duty from the government in the Education and Inspections Act). This should be a clear written statement of the principles which then guide the school's behaviour policy.

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher, with support from all staff, to use these to bring this to life across the school. These principles and the policy help to guide the Headteacher in determining how to promote good behaviour and discipline amongst pupils. In Summerhill Infants, this also guides our Code of Behaviour, which is shared with all parents and carers when your child joins the school (which can be found online [here](#) in case you want a refresh!).

The Governors have drafted these principles, and consulted with staff but we also want your inputs before we finalise them – so we are attaching these to this newsletter and **asking for inputs from you by January 11th 2021**. We're doing this because (and we hope that you agree), a shared set of behaviour principles helps us set standards so that all our children can make the best possible progress. This works best when we all know what is expected of us - be that staff, children, parents or school leadership. That's why we think it's important to make sure you also have a chance to input into these, before we finalise them.

These behaviour principles help to set the standard by which positive relationships can underpin our success! They are also – like everything we do - driven by our vision, which strives to support and nurture every child to develop citizens for the future, and our values, which aim to embed positive actions by our children.

Behaviour principles consultation -- questions to answer

1. Are you happy with these as a broad set of *guiding principles* to shape good behaviour in the school?
2. Is there anything missing, or that you would like to add?
3. Is there anything you think *shouldn't* be in there?
4. Do you have any other comments?

Send feedback to the Clerk of Governors: clerk.summerhill.i@bristol-schools.uk by **January 11th** (you can also just send notes or queries, without answering these questions). Can you please mark that as "Behaviour Principles feedback", so we can easily find it?

What we will do with feedback. We have drafted these principles in line with good practice guidance and advice, so any changes would need to be weighed against this. We will draft a final version from the governors to share in early 2021, where we will also highlight any changes we make from the consultation.

Changes in the school in 2021...

Welcoming the new Deputy Head. After being without a deputy head for a year we are very happy to welcome Louise Foxwell who is starting with us in early 2021. She comes to us with a wealth of experience after teaching for many years at a large primary school in Tower Hamlets. We can't wait for her to start, and share her knowledge with us, and fill a long-standing gap in our senior leadership team.

Changes at the school. Due to reduced numbers of pupils at Summerhill Infant School we have started to look at reducing the number of Staff employed at the school to help us manage our school budgets. This has been a very difficult decision to make for the Governing Board, and we have tried very, very hard to stave-off any changes against this backdrop of reducing numbers, and squeezed school budgets over the last few years. Sadly, this means we will now need to make some changes over the coming months. Once this decision has been made, we will share further information with you.

Do you (or anyone you know) want to become a Governor?

Hi, I'm Jo. I became the new Vice Chair of the governors this year. I've been on the board for about 4 years previously. I love our governing board. It's a really supportive team with a strong sense of shared purpose (to do best by all the kids at our school!). I'm what we call a "co-opted governor" – which basically means I am not a parent or staff governor. I joined the team because I really believe in the role of education in building stronger communities, and helping all children (especially the ones who need it most) to reach their potential -- I am also the SEND and Safeguarding Governor for that reason.

Do you want to join us? The governors are made up of parents/ carers, staff, and local people who all have a shared interest in improving the school. We help the headmaster manage the budget and resources. We set aims and objectives, and monitor the progress the school is making. We also set a clear vision and strategic direction for the school.

We always need more governors. Do you, or someone you know want to join us? This doesn't have to be a parent, just like I'm not, so you might know someone else who is interested. You can access free training, and we'll help you find your feet if you feel a little unsure - it took me a little while, and I got help from the team. If you want to become a Governor, or ask any questions, please email clerk.summerhill.i@bristol-schools.uk

OUR VISION

Inspiring, nurturing and supporting each child, every day to develop citizens for the future.
Our School lays the foundation for a lifetime love of learning.



OUR VISION

OUR VALUES

Be the best you can be!
Be kind, be respectful, have fun.
Be inquisitive, delve into knowledge and explore the world.
Be resilient, persevere in all you do.
Grow friendships while you learn and play.
Prepare for your future.



OUR VALUES

Be Brilliant!