

# Drove Primary School

[www.drove-pri.swindon.sch.uk](http://www.drove-pri.swindon.sch.uk)

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Dear parents, carers and friends,

This is our first Governors Newsletter. We are a mix of parents, staff and members of the community who help support Drove's staff in delivering the best for our wonderful children.

We are active in school every week. There are photographs of all our faces on the noticeboard opposite the school office.

When we are in school we wear orange lanyards to distinguish us from other adults. If you see us please do stop us if you'd like to talk about anything...both good and bad. It remains confidential as far as possible.

If you would like to contact us directly the school office will take sealed letters for us or you can email [chair@drove-pri.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:chair@drove-pri.swindon.sch.uk).

For more information, visit the Governors page on the ABOUT US section of Drove's website: you'll find us listed under SCHOOL INFORMATION.

Thank you for all your support. Have a great holiday!

Mark Powell  
Chair of Governors

## What do Governors do

Drove is part of the White Horse Federation who take overall responsibility for finance, safeguarding and staffing matters.

As governors for Drove we:

- Are ambitious for Drove to be the best that it can be
- Make sure each child is happy and successful
- Monitor teaching and learning
- Know lots about the school and its community
- Ask questions to support staff in achieving their best
- Keep effective relationships within TWHF.

We meet regularly as a group and also visit school to keep up to date with teaching and other activities. We talk to pupils and staff and parents as often as we can. We join staff meetings, visit school parliament and sit with pupils at lunch times and in lessons. We want every child to be able to feel special and this non-academic award helps

## Summer Term Governor meetings

**Tuesday 21 May 2019**

**Wednesday 10 July 2019**

## House Points

If pupils spot us in schools in our orange lanyards and come to talk to us they earn 2 house points. This is a good way for governors to have chats with pupils about their day and how they feel about school. We take any suggestions or feedback to staff who can help.

## Governor Awards

These certificates celebrate achievement and support the teaching of Values. At the end of each term a pupil in each class wins an award for showing one of the following:

- Equality
- Justice
- Respect
- Tolerance

## Who we are

### **Mark Powell, Chair**

Artistic Director at Prime Theatre, Swindon's professional company for children. Mark lives on York Road behind Drove.

### **Vice-chair: Sue Kershaw**

Sue was a head at a Swindon primary and is now in charge of safeguarding at another primary

**Olly Webb** teaches Drama in schools, including Drove

**Lee Edmonds** leads training at Swindon Teaching School

**Kaudasar Begum** is a parent governor, with a child in Year 4

**Repi Begum** is a parent governor, with a child in Nursery

**Sarah Buckle** is a staff governor and manages the Drove kitchen

**Anna Vernon** is a staff governor and teaches Year 6

**Mallory Deaton** is a staff governor and teaches Year 5

**We have vacancies for 2 governors.** If you are interested in this exciting role supporting the school please email - [chair@drove-pri.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:chair@drove-pri.swindon.sch.uk)

## Parent View

Whenever OFSTED inspect a school they ask parents to answer questions online. We decided to ask the same questions at our recent Parents Evening so that we could react in advance of OFSTED.

100% of parents said their child was happy, safe and taught well at Drove. This is wonderful feedback.

The only response that worried us was that 16% didn't know how the school would deal with bullying. We have now updated the Anti-Bullying Policy to make procedure even clearer. The Policy is on the school website.

## Pupil View

We thought it would be a good idea to ask our pupils the same questions as the adults who came to parents evening. A simplified version of the questionnaire was completed in each class with support from teachers. Results were very positive with the vast majority of the children enjoying school. The children recognise that they are well supported in class. The majority of children would recommend the school to their friends.

## Other governor activities...

- We have sat and had lunch with pupils asking about their days
- We have delivered confidence and communication workshops
- We have attended staff meetings and learned about marking
- We have been part of Teaching Assistant recruitment
- We have been part of the excellent Safeguarding Audit

## Strategic priorities

We to help agree and to monitor Drove's strategic priorities for improvement and excellence.

Our 2019 priorities include:

### **Vocabulary**

To improve the children's knowledge and acquisition of vocabulary to help reading

### **Timestables**

To prepare our children for the new Yr 4 timestables test

### **Maths**

To improve the performance of higher achieving Girls in Yrs 4, 5 & 6

### **Handwriting**

To improve the teaching of handwriting to raise results at the end of EYFS, KS1 and 2

### **Spellings**

To improve achievement at the end of KS1 & 2

### **Writing**

To improve the performance of boys across the school

### **Attendance**

To continue to raise School Attendance from 95.4% to 96% with a focus on Reception and Year 1

### **SEND**

To improve the progress of our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities across the school and in all areas