

Mrs S.L. Whalley
01392 824340
admin@exminsterschool.co.uk

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Governor News

Welcome to the first Governor News section of the newsletter. We, the Governing Board, would like parents and carers to feel more involved with the governance of the school and aim to do this by regularly sharing news and updates with you. We hope you enjoy the first Governor News!

Who we are and what we do

Our governing board has 15 members and is made up from members of staff, including Mrs Whalley, members of the community and parents. We also have an excellent clerk, Helen Hibbins. The thing we all have in common is a desire to improve outcomes for all children at our school. The schools website has a photo and a short paragraph from each of the governors. Governors provide support and challenge to the Head teacher and their purpose is to;

- Set the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; and
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

Recent governor activity

We have recently completed a skills audit of the Governing Board, and I'm pleased to say that we are in a great position to take on the challenges and changes that effect education while keeping outcomes for our children at the heart of everything we do. However, we have identified some areas that we need some expertise in. The areas we have identified are health and safety and people who have detailed knowledge of the education system. We have two vacancies for co-opted governors at the moment and we would like to fill these vacancies with people who have knowledge or a keen interest in these specialities. Training is available so if you have an interest in these areas and you have some time spare to devote to the role we would love to hear from you. We also have a vacancy for a parent governor. Please talk to me, Libby Ash, or Mrs Whalley if you are interested in joining the governing board.

In order to understand how we were performing as a Governing Board, and to identify areas where we could improve, we commissioned Babcock to carry out a Review of Governance. The review involved interviews with Mrs Whalley, Helen, our Clerk, me (Libby Ash), the Chair, an experienced governor, Alwyn Reeves, and one of our new governors, John Collins. We were delighted to have lots of positive comments in the report and it gave us confidence that we are working effectively. There were also some next steps on the report which we are working on this term and over the next academic year.

The governing board have voted for a change in our structure this term. We now have co-chairs! Tony Fripp and I are chairing the board together and our new vice-chair is Paul Frazer. By making this change we can spread the work of the Chair and further improve the effectiveness of the Governing Board. The change was discussed, and supported, as part of the Review of Governance.

You will no doubt have seen in the news over the last few months that the Government requires all schools to become academies by 2022. More recently the Schools Minister has indicated that good or outstanding schools will not be forced to become an academy or to join an academy trust, but this remains a conversation which the school and the Governors continue to have, as if the correct 'fit' for the school can be found there may be significant advantages to benefit our children that we will continue to consider.



Libby Ash



Paul Frazer



Tony Fripp





Sports News

On Tuesday 17th May, 8 girls from Year 3 and 4 took part in a Change 4 Life Festival. Each team represented a country and ours was India. We had an amazing parade at the beginning where we waved our flags. Our warm up was a dance to music which was led by Mrs Mason and was really fun. We tried lots of different activities including cycling, golf, badminton, athletics, taekwondo and mini tennis.

Isla said, "I got better at riding a bike and I learnt how to play mini golf."

Emily said, "I learnt how to play golf by learning where to put my hands and feet. I also learnt how to do taekwondo. I really enjoyed playing dragon's eggs."

Ellie said, "I got better at badminton because now I can hit it really far."

Primrose said, "I got better at doing tennis because I am now more confident in hitting the ball. I would like to have another go at taekwondo as it was really fun!"

Megan said, "I learnt how to ride a bike on the grass and flat ground. I could only ride it downhill before!"

By Emily, Primrose, Isla and Ellie (Year 4)

Music Lessons

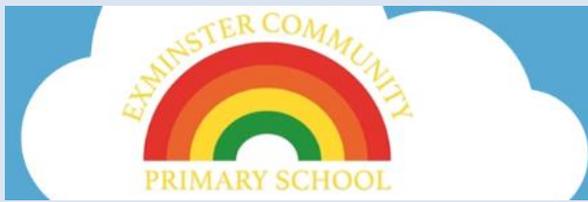
After half term we have a new teacher starting who will teach woodwind. Should you wish your child to start learning the clarinet, flute or saxophone, please collect a form from the office. As they progress they may also join the new Exe School's Orchestra which is completely free and takes part at Exminster on Mondays between 4:45 and 5:45.

Fundraising

If you regularly shop online at retailers such as Sainsburys, John Lewis, Tesco, Next, Amazon, Ebay etc. then easyfundraising.org.uk is a great way to raise money for the school. It's easy to register and if you have an Iphone or Ipad, using the app makes it even easier. When you register you will be asked for the cause you are supporting – just pick Exminster Community Primary School from the drop-down menu.

For example: if you do your weekly grocery shopping online via Sainsburys, instead of going direct to the Sainsburys website, you first go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk or the app. From the easyfundraising website, click through to Sainsburys to make your purchases. This tells Sainsburys you came from easyfundraising. The price of your shopping is exactly the same and 50p will come to the school. Over the course of a year, that alone could raise £26 for the school! Different retailers pay different rates. For example Amazon will pay up to 1.5% and Ebay up to 3.75%. It's a really easy way of fundraising for the school and will cost you nothing. If you have any queries, please speak to Mrs Welch in the School Office.





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