

# InTouch: Governor's Newsletter #

## PIRTON SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Nicola Robbins (Chair)  
 Richard Easterbrook (Vice Chair)  
 Paul Watson  
 Richard Sugden  
 Jamie Sutterby  
 Loretta Concannon  
 Sarah Eva  
 Neil Ireland  
 James Robertson  
 Derek Webb  
 Jeni Houghton  
 Alison Banks  
 Joanne Webb

## OFSTED

Congratulations to Mrs Houghton and all the staff for such a great OFSTED report last month. All the staff at Pirton School work very hard to make sure our children achieve their best and it was brilliant to see their efforts rewarded. Thank you to the parents who spoke to the inspector and/or contributed to ParentView.

There were some points for development highlighted in the report and Governors are making sure that these are priority areas for the school going forward. We are also aware that the Parent View survey highlighted behaviour as an area of concern. As you know the school is already working hard to address this and we will monitor progress of the behaviour action plan over the next few months. If you have any questions or concerns please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance, or to Mrs Houghton.

## HOW WE WORK

We thought it would be useful in the first newsletter of the academic year to outline what a Governing Body does and how we organise ourselves.

The role of the Governing Body is to make sure the school is doing the very best it can for each of the children by:

- Supporting the headteacher and other staff, who are responsible for the day to day running of the school
- Providing strategic management oversight and acting as a "critical friend".
- Managing the part of the school budget which covers salaries, running costs, maintenance and equipment.
- Deciding what the priorities are for implementing new strategies and initiatives.
- Governors also appoint the headteacher, and may be involved in the appointment of other staff.

Governors have a role in monitoring the school's progress, and in setting annual targets for the school's performance. At Pirton school we have three sub-committees to help us do this:

- **Resources and Finance**, which looks at staffing and budget (Richard Easterbrook, Jamie Sutterby, Neil Ireland).
- **Premises**, which looks at school building maintenance and learning environment (Richard Sugden, Paul Watson and Derek Webb)
- **Curriculum**, which looks at teaching and learning and pupil progress (Loretta Concannon, Sarah Eva and James Robertson)

These committees meet once a term and report back to the main governing body.

Each governor also has a responsibility to monitor certain aspects of the school to make sure that we are on track to meet the targets set in the school development plan. Governors will each visit school for at least one day a year to look at lessons, speak to pupils and generally immerse themselves in the life of the school. Since September 2012 our monitoring is split into four key areas. These are in line with the way that schools are inspected by OFSTED.

- **Leadership and Management** – Richard Easterbrook and Jamie Sutterby
- **Behaviour and Safety** – Sarah Eva, James Robertson
- **Teaching and Learning** – Loretta Concannon and Richard Sugden
- **Achievement** – Paul Watson, Neil Ireland, Derek Webb

## NEW GOVERNORS

We would like to welcome three new governors to the Governing Body this term.

### James Robertson (Community Governor)

**Occupation:** Church of England vicar for Holwell, Ickleford and Pirton. We moved to Pirton in July 2011, since when I have done everything from blessing The Fox to marrying Maria and The Captain in 'The Sound of Music'!

**Family:** I am married to Barbara and we have twin daughters Sarah and Emma, plus little grandchildren Leo and Maya. At home now it's just the two of us and Mattie the dog.

**Reasons for joining the Governing Body:** I want to be useful in the community in a role which doesn't involve church or religion. I hope I can make a positive contribution to the life of the school, building on previous experience as a governor in other places.

**Did you know?** I discovered I enjoy visiting people when I was once a rent collector in Tottenham. These days when I visit as vicar, fewer people pretend to be out!

### Derek Webb (Community Governor)

**Occupation:** Ex Director of a computer company now retired

**Family:** Living with my wife Ann, 3 cats, Harvey, Charlie and Bruno, and several koi carp who are nameless.

**Reasons for joining the Governing Body:** I wanted to do more for the local school which did so much for my children 30 odd years ago

**Did you know?** I make things for disabled people via a charity called REMAP; I build and fly model aircraft; I grow Bonsai trees and my greatest delight is babysitting my grandchildren.

### Neil Ireland (Local Authority Governor)

**Occupation:** Self-employed in website design, implementation and maintenance (New customers always welcome!) I also work part time as an IT technician at a local secondary school.

**Family:** Married to Karen, with a family that consists of one dog and lots of tropical fish.

**Reasons for joining the Governing Body:** Having worked in the leadership team at a Luton secondary school, I'm delighted to be able to continue contributing to the education of children at Pirton School.

**Did you know:** I am a keen Francophile and walker, so I delight in combining these two interests by doing some of the long distance walking routes in France, where it's (usually) sunnier and warmer.

## Contact Us

The best way to contact us is via our email address:

[governor@pirton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:governor@pirton.herts.sch.uk)

We welcome your comments and suggestions, including on:

- ideas for improving how governors and the school communicate with parents
- the aims and objectives of the school
- targets that have been set to achieve these
- the school's budget
- the content of this and future newsletters