

InTouch

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the very first edition of **InTouch**; a newsletter produced by Pirton School's Governing Body. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an insight into the Governing Body and the work that it does behind the scenes to help manage, support and promote Pirton School.

This is the first of many future editions that will keep you informed of the key issues being dealt with by the School and the Governing Body.

What we do

Governors are volunteers who work with the Head Teacher,

staff and the Local Authority to help the school provide the best possible education for all children. Governors play a key role in the drive to promote high standards of educational achievement and this is accomplished through the performance of 3 key roles.

Strategic Planning

This involves planning for the future of the school, establishing its key aims and values and helping the school determine priorities for improvement.

Critical friend

The Governing Body offers support, constructive advice and

practical help where needed. Governors also challenge, ask questions, seek information and suggest improvements.

Accountability

The Governing Body holds the school to account for the standards it achieves in all areas of learning.

In our next issue we will focus on the work of the curriculum committee and how it works with the Head Teacher, Jeni Houghton, to ensure that we deliver the best educational programme for our children.

Purchase of Apple MacBooks

We are delighted that the school has been able to purchase 14 MacBooks and a programme of training to really ensure that the school gets the best value from them.

Mark Roberts, Vice-Chair of Pirton School Governing Body, said "We were really pleased when Jeni brought this proposal to us to discuss. They have already been used to great effect, stimulating the children and developing their technology skills. Careful management of the school's budget coupled with identifying opportunities for associated funding and training has made this all possible and we are delighted with the feedback from pupils and teachers so far."

The Governing Body will continue to support the school in encouraging new, exciting and effective ways of delivering the curriculum.

PROFILE

Chair of Pirton Governing Body

Chris Chappell

Occupation: Contracts Manager for a Bedford based Construction Company

Family: Married with 2 young children, 1 currently at Pirton School



Reason for joining the Governing Body: To be part of the decision making process. I am really enjoying being a governor and would recommend it to anyone.

Interests: Very keen on most sports, although children fill the majority of my spare time!

Did you know: I had trials for Aston Villa Football Club in position of Goalkeeper; I was unsuccessful though!

School Improvement Partner

Our School Improvement Partner, Gary White, visited the school on 17 November 2010 and met with staff and Governors. All schools have a School Improvement Partner whose role is to challenge the school leadership team, support further improvement in the school and monitor standards for all learners.

Gary reported back to Governors that he had seen solid progress over the past year with good results in Key stage 2.

Gary will continue to support Jeni and the Governing Body in establishing positive targets for all Key Stages.

Focus on Policy

Pirton School's policy on **positive behaviour and discipline** will shortly be approved by the Governing Body. The aim of the policy is to foster a positive and caring attitude, encourage self-discipline and give all pupils, staff and parents a shared sense of direction and feeling of common purpose. All of the school's policies can be accessed at <http://www.pirton.herts.sch.uk/SchoolPolicies.htm>.

Pirton Leading the Way

Jeni Houghton has supported other Governing Bodies within Hertfordshire and other Local Authorities who are considering a shared Head Teacher arrangement. She has also become a 'Professional Partner' for the National College of School Leadership, which involves mentoring up to three newly appointed Head Teachers. This is a great endorsement of the success of the arrangement with Hexton and the effective leadership shown throughout Pirton School. It also means that with the appointment of Alison Banks and Joanne Webb in their role as Assistant Heads, Pirton School's leadership team continues to go from strength to strength.

Thought for the Day

In our hectic, fast-paced, consumer-driven society, it is common to feel overwhelmed, isolated and alone. Many are rediscovering the healing and empowering role that community can bring to our lives. The sense of belonging we feel when we make the time to take an active role in our communities can give us a deeper sense of meaning and purpose.

Robert Alan

Quote for the Day

The aim of education is the knowledge not of facts but of values.

A.C. Benson



Contact Us

The best way to contact us is via our email address: governor@pirton.herts.sch.uk

We welcome comments and suggestions on:

- the aims and objectives of the school
- targets that have been set to achieve these
- the school's budget