

# Governor's Newsletter



## Autumn Term 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the Governing Body of Alexandra Primary School I would like to welcome you to the first of our regular newsletters.

Our aim is to send you a newsletter every term in which we will keep you in touch with what we do as a Governing Body and also report back on some of the important achievements and events at the school.

So, as we approach the end of what has been a very successful autumn term here at Alexandra, I would like to thank our wonderful children for their hard work throughout this term. It has been a privilege to see the children settling in at the start of a new school year, and making progress throughout the term. Every child has contributed to the school's continued success and they should all feel very proud of their achievements.

I am sure that you would like to join with me in thanking Ms Dulay and all the amazing staff for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the children. Our dedicated team have put so much into making this school what it is. They all work incredibly hard to ensure that all the children can achieve their best. This includes not only the Teachers and Teaching Assistants who work in the class rooms but also the Office Staff, Site Manager, Caretaker, Lunchtime Assistants, Volunteers, Psychologist, School Nurse, Catering and Cleaning Staff, and finally, my fellow Governors. Each and every one of you do a fantastic job in ensuring that Alexandra can offer such great opportunities to all our children. It is very much a whole team effort!!

I would also like to thank you, our supportive parents and carers. We are so lucky at Alexandra to have such a richly diverse community and I have really enjoyed seeing the school's partnership with parents and carers strengthen over the last couple of years. This has really helped to ensure the very best outcomes for our children. By working together, we can ensure that our children enjoy their time at school, make good progress and leave us well qualified and ready to approach the next exciting stage of their lives. We have received so many positive comments about the children's behaviour and attitude from a range of visitors to the school and you should all feel very proud of them!

On behalf of all the Governing Body I wish you all a happy holiday and look forward to a great 2019!

Best wishes and Season's Greetings,

Caroline Schloss, Chair of Governors

## What Governors Do

School governors are a group of volunteers who help run the school. At Alexandra, we currently have 2 parent governors, 1 staff governor, 5 co-opted governors and a local Authority governor. Each of the governors has their own skills and expertise, and in this and the next few newsletters we will be introducing ourselves to you.

The Governing Body meets 5 times a year, with the school's Senior Leadership Team attending. This term we met twice, and our next meeting will be at the end of February. You can see the minutes of our meetings either on the school's website, or outside the school office.

In our newsletters we will let you know some of the things that the Governing Body and its various committees have done since the last newsletter. Actions this term include:

- We discussed and approved the School Development Plan which is the plan which outlines the matters the school particularly wants to work on this year.
- The Safeguarding Committee approved the new Keeping Children Safe in Education document and discussed how it was being implemented; they also approved an Asthma Policy for the school.
- The Curriculum Committee and the Senior Leadership Team spent a considerable time analysing the data relating to last year's pupils' achievement and progress, and they discussed proposals for improvement.
- The Management Committee looked at the school spending and whether the school is keeping within the budget which we set. The members also walked through the school looking at Health and Safety aspects to check whether the experts we employ are carrying out their duties properly.

## Selection of events at and achievements by the school this term

- National Poets' day including visit from Paul Delaney
- School Trips:
  - Y6 Residential
  - Museums
  - Walking trip in London
  - Pantomimes
- International Evening
- Black History Month
- "We are Londoners" musical showcase
- Awarded Silver Star from TFL
- Anti-bullying week and Odd sock day
- Children in need – raised nearly £300
- Scientist Visitor
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 32 in Schools Tag Rugby competition
- Health and Fitness day
- Reached semi-final of Haringey's basket ball tournament
- Increase in Music provision resulting in more time devoted to our orchestra and choir and additional after school music clubs

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# Meet some of the team

## Caroline Schloss – Chair of Governors

I have recently retired, having spent 30 years working as a solicitor. I still wanted to do something useful and had always been interested in becoming a school governor as I had always been passionate about helping children achieve their true potential and achieve their dreams. When I heard that Alexandra Primary had vacancies on the Governing Body I did not hesitate applying as I have lived in the area for more than 35 years and can remember the school from when I first moved here.

After being a governor for just over a year I became the Chair of Governors just over 2 years ago. I am currently Chair of the Management Committee and also sit on both the Safeguarding and Curriculum Committees. I really love what I do and hope that I am playing my part in ensuring that the Governing Body is playing its part in the school.

I have one son of my own, who is now grown up and married. For many years I was also a foster carer, and looked after 16 children (not all at once), which has been extremely rewarding. We have kept in touch with several of the foster children. It is so fantastic to see them as adults and we now have 2 "foster grandchildren!"



## Sally Lask – Co-Opted Governor

I am a mother to two, a foreign languages and sociology graduate and have worked in telecoms Project Management and Customer Service Management on corporate accounts. I also have several years' experience in Teaching English as a Foreign Language in Spain and Italy. In more recent times, I have taken on a Fundraising role at my daughter's nursery and have been involved in various other types of voluntary work, including at my children's primary school, in projects for the homeless and for a Human Rights Organisation. I am currently studying to be a Child Counsellor.

I chose to become a Governor at Alexandra Primary in order to re-hone my existing skills and to acquire new skills, but, particularly, to give something back to my local community and to endeavour to make a positive contribution towards the goal of granting every child the opportunity of a good education and therefore a good start in life. I am currently on the Curriculum and Safeguarding Committees.

A little known fact – years ago, I ran my own hospital radio shows from Barnet Hospital and the Whittington!



## Iftikhar Khan – Parent Governor

I am a founder, director and the Chief Technology Officer for a Video on Demand startup called Alchemiya, and I consult on other VoD projects. I have worked in tech for the last couple of decades, for big multinationals like GSK and Ernst & Young, for Sheffield LEA and for the ISP Plusnet when it was a startup. Prior to that, I had a career as a medical research scientist in academia, most recently as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Leeds Medical School.

I am the father of two current Alexandra Primary pupils, with a third itching to join them next September. I have lived in Wood Green for twelve years and I recently chose to become a Parent Governor in order to help make a difference in my community.

I firmly believe that all children should have the best possible opportunities to learn and grow, irrespective of class, race, gender. I personally benefitted from inspirational teachers at every stage of my lengthy education, and as a parent, I am thankful for the dedication and hard work that I have seen in my boys' teachers in this school. I want to quickly learn and develop and be able to assist the leadership team in any way that I can with the vision and strategic direction of the school and to make sure that all the hard work of all staff pays off in raising standards for all pupils. I will be sitting on the Safeguarding and Curriculum Committees.



# Parental Involvement

We are coming to the end of another busy and productive term at Alexandra Primary. One of the areas we are particularly pleased with is the growth in parental engagement across the school. We are very proud of the increasingly strong partnership that is growing between the school and our families. We hope this will continue to go from strength to strength. Here are a few of the events which have taken place in the last year that parent participation and involvement have helped to make a success.

- Class and celebration assemblies
- Musical showcases
- International evening
- Black History month
- Parents workshops
- Support with school trips
- Participation in reading mornings
- Attending family conferences
- Movie night
- Take One picture Display
- Black History month exhibition
- World Book day
- Sports days
- Help with the Summer fair
- STEM exhibition

The School are also planning the expansion of the Friends of Alexandra Primary, and it would be great if you would like to get involved.

Thank you to our school community for all your support. We wish you a very enjoyable holiday.

