

Athelstan School Governors News

Dear Athelstan Families

Welcome to the Autumn 2016 Governing Body Newsletter. As always it has been a busy half term and we would be delighted if you were able to read up on all our activities in the full governing body minutes via the website <http://www.athelstan.n-yorks.sch.uk>, its all on the website. In this newsletter we hope to provide you with an update on our membership, working partnerships and additional activities.

Governing body membership

In our September meeting we were pleased to extend a warm welcome to a co-opted Governor Adrian Wainwright. Adrian is an active member of the Sherburn Community and is part of the Methodist Open Book project, which visits school regularly, so is already a familiar face to the children in school. We are sure that he will become a familiar face to the wider Athelstan Community as he takes up his role as governor.

Governing body partnerships

We believe that it is important to listen to our pupils, parents and teachers; developing open and honest relationships and working partnerships. We were pleased to be able to catch up with many parents, carers and extended family members as well as teachers and school staff alike, at the recent parents' evenings. We hope that anyone in the Athelstan Community will take these informal opportunities to chat with us about the school.

Governing body response to school expansion

We would like to thank Athelstan families and teachers alike for their ongoing patience and cooperation during this time of change. This is a large project which is necessary due to the amount of new children who will require school places as Sherburn expands. The delays in the Phase one work are however a concern, we would like to reassure you that the governors have been very proactive in addressing these delays. Andrew Parmenter, the Chair of the Governing Body has been very proactive in communicating with relevant parties with the hope of moving the project on. This phase is now due for completion over half term.

Governing body achievements

The Athelstan Governing Body Chair Andrew Parmenter remains as a member of the Steering Committee of the Star Alliance, whilst Miss O'Donnell has been re-elected as Chair of the STAR head teachers. We are also pleased to confirm that we have also become more actively involved with the Star Alliance as a Governing Body. With the appointment of a new Star Alliance Business Manager we are expecting a much more robust programme of events and appropriate training for our Teaching staff and Governors going forwards this academic year.

And finally

We would like to say a huge thank you to all teachers, staff and pupils for your hard work throughout 2016. We are so proud of the commitment of the staff, in ensuring that all the classes were ready for the start of the school year, under difficult circumstances. We are also very proud of the new Raindrops and Puddles Nurseries and we would urge families to take the opportunity to look around the new facilities when we have our open days and drop in sessions. We can only reiterate how we are very proud of all your achievements. We look forward excitedly to seeing our school expand and what we can all achieve in 2017.

