

IN THE LOOP



Governors Newsletter for the Staff, Parents and Carers of
St Matthew's Church of England Primary School



Another Lockdown!

Is it too late to say 'Happy New Year'? I never know when is the right time to stop saying that but it seems fitting although we are already into our third week of the new year and into our third lockdown.

Our first Governors meeting for this term isn't until later in the term. (March 2021) but this doesn't mean that we've been silent. The Chair has had regular meetings/catch-up calls with the Head Teacher to offer support and guidance as the school itself tries to navigate this new lockdown and the short notice in which it was announced.

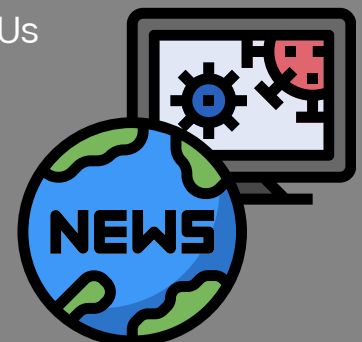
With this new lockdown comes the return of food parcels and despite the national news, we are reassured that food parcels for our families are sufficient to meet the needs of our children, enabling them to continue learning and developing. More families than expected are able to collect these directly from the school but where this is not possible, Governors have offered to fill any potential gaps to ensure no child goes without.



Finally, all we ask is that you stay safe, communicate with the staff at St Matthew's in relation to any matters of concern you may have and we'll be praying for you all.

Overview:

- Lockdown No. 3
- Introducing Donnita Forde
- Inside Governance - Setting the Strategic Direction of the School
- Contact Us



Getting to know the Special Education Needs (SEN) Link Governor

Donnita Forde

Donnita joined St Matthew's Governing Body in May 2018 and was appointed as Safeguarding Link Governor in 2019 before opting to become the SEN Link Governor last September for this academic year.

As well as being a Co-opted Governor, Donnita is an enthusiastic and highly motivated teacher, tutor and assessor who is committed to safeguarding and promoting the education and well-being of learning in her 'day-job'.

Being supportive is Donnita's starting point for how she works, and this ensures that learner's retain their independence whilst building their self-esteem. She is an eternal student who continues to build on her own professional development through the numerous training

and events she attends. Governing is not easy and can be time consuming but Donnita takes her role on this governing body and that of her Link role responsibilities, seriously and is a committed member who attends every meeting.

As explained in the last 'In the Loop' Newsletter, financial probity is important and Donnita not only sits on the



Finance Committee, she also recently chaired the Appraisal Committee related to the Head Teacher's performance.

As the SEN Link Governor, Donnita has the additional commitment of meeting regularly with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) who is a qualified teacher working in the school. With the overall focus on strategic oversight, Donnita will also ask challenging questions about the school's systems and processes for supporting our children with SEN.

On a personal note Donnita is committed to supporting staff, children and the parents at St Matthew's and as a resident of the local community please feel comfortable to approach Donnita and say

hello

Inside Governance

How Governors set the strategic direction for the school

By Sharon Warmington | Clerk to the Governing Body



The primary reason why governors need to be strategic is that they must focus on improving governance and outcomes for the children and students with their school. They are not operational which means governors cannot become involved in the day-to-day activities and operation of the school unless or until those activities require strategic involvement and decisions.

Being part of the Church of England, the Mission and Values of St Matthew's are guided by the

founding principles and beliefs of the Diocese, which in turn helps to create the strategic focus. Our Mission defines where we are as a school and the Vision outlines what the school will look like in the future. The strategic focus bridges the gap between the two ie how are we going to get there?

The School Development Plan plays an integral role in this and therefore at every meeting, the Head Teacher will provide governors with an update on where we are against the plan with a summary report at the end of each academic year.



Are you our next governor?

We currently have vacancies so if you are interested, or if you know someone who would be interested, contact the Clerk for an informal chat.