



# News from Edmondsley Governors

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**Hello and Welcome** to our latest Governor Newsletter. Parents/carers, children, teachers and governors, old and new have now hopefully settled in well to school life at Edmondsley in this new academic year. On behalf of all the Governors, I would like to welcome and thank you for being part of the Edmondsley Primary and Nursery School family. For those of you new to Edmondsley, Governors want to use the newsletter as a regular forum to highlight the work which they do and to provide you with an overview of our continued role and the support we provide to the pupils, staff and school as a whole, throughout the school year.

**Stuart Hogarth, Chair of Governors**

## Retirements and New Governor Appointments

**Mrs Catherine Kettley** (Community Governor) regretfully left Edmondsley Governing Body in the summer to enjoy retirement with her husband to the fullest. During her dedicated time at Edmondsley, Mrs Kettley provided support to staff, children and fellow governors with the utmost professionalism.

**Mrs Chris Baker** retired both from teaching at Edmondsley and as Staff Governor. Governors greatly appreciated and valued Mrs Baker's time, not just as Staff Governor, but as a long serving, dedicated member of staff at Edmondsley, who has helped shape the future of many children's lives.

**Mrs Nicola Hawkins** (Parent Governor) also left the Governing Body after a long established link with the school, having provided valuable support to staff, children and governors in a variety of roles.

We wish all leaving Governors good health and happiness in their future endeavours.

Governors are delighted to welcome and introduce two new Parent Governors. Mrs Philippa Bell works for Northumbrian Water and already volunteers in schools giving career advice. She hopes to bring experience in media relations, stakeholder communications and marketing to governance at Edmondsley. **Mrs Anna**

**Darling**, has also been elected Parent Governor. She believes education to be important for all children and should be inclusive of all abilities and experiences. Being part of the community and supporting all those working and learning within the school, Mrs Darling considers this to be a valuable role.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to **Mrs Beverley Bravey** as newly elected Staff Governor. Mrs Bravey, our full-time Reception teacher also has leadership responsibility for Early Years and Maths provision.

## School Self Evaluation and Improvement

Having achieved its priorities for 2016/17, Edmondsley have identified areas for development for 2017/18. The key focus areas for improvement are:

- 1 Strengthen quality of teaching, learning and assessment to plan appropriate teaching and learning tasks, enabling all children to make good progress and achieve well and ensuring all staff receive the relevant training opportunities and support to develop their teaching practice.
- 2 Provide further opportunities for children to develop their Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) skills to equip them to be thoughtful, caring and active citizens in school and in wider society, whilst improving parents' understanding of how we teach SMSC.
- 3 Track and sustain attainment and good progress for all pupils, paying particular attention to 'disadvantaged' pupils. Such children can attract additional government funding (pupil premium) to provide extra support to enable them to achieve well at school. An important part of the governors' role is to ensure any additional funding is used appropriately and provides positive impact to those. We carefully track the progress of **all** pupils but pay additional attention to those children who are 'disadvantaged', making sure that where needed, they are supported to be just as successful as all our children.
- 4 To improve the effectiveness of the Early Years Provision by raising outcomes in Literacy – focusing on communication and language, physical, social and emotional wellbeing, reading and writing. Opportunities for parents to become more involved and confident in supporting their child through the foundation stage, will also be explored and developed.

## Governing Body Committees

Even the most hardworking governing bodies rarely meet together for a total of more than about fifteen hours a year and, given the broad range of responsibilities governors now accept, it would not be possible to cover the entire workload at meetings of the full governing body. For this reason governing bodies form committees to manage the detail work so that the governing body when it meets as a whole can concentrate on overall strategy.

Edmondsley governing body has reviewed, updated and adopted new sub-committee Terms of References for this year and has determined the following committees:-

- Appeals
- Curriculum, Standards and Wellbeing
- Finance
- Personnel, First/Pay Review
- Headteacher's Performance
- Premises, Health and Safety

There are no statutory committees so each governing body can decide the structure that suits them.

Details of the work carried out by each committee will follow in future newsletters as and when committees meet.

## School Policies

Governors have reviewed and approved the following school policies this term:

- Arrival and Departures Policy (Available from our school website)
- Nursery Admissions. (We are now offering 30 hours Nursery Provision to families who are eligible)
- Missing Child Policy
- Safer Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Attendance
- Jewellery Policy

## Good communication

Particularly for those of you new to Edmondsley Primary and Nursery School and as a reminder to others, good communication between parents/carers and the school is vital. The school have made it as easy as possible to stay in touch:

**In person:** If you just need a quick word, please feel free to approach your class teacher at the start or end of each school day. If you would like a bit more time to discuss something in particular you may like to book some time with your teacher to suit you both.

If you would like to meet with our Head Teacher, Angela Rees you can pop into the school office and make an appointment.

**Email:** This is a great way for you to contact the school office, your teacher or the head teacher. Angela Haswell, our Office Manager will always forward your emails confidentially to the intended recipient.  
[edmondsley@durhamlearning.net](mailto:edmondsley@durhamlearning.net)

**By phone:** Our Office Manager, Mrs Angela Haswell will always be available to answer your query, pass on a message or arrange a good time for your teacher to call you back. 0191 3710443

**Text:** Tell School your mobile number so that you can be informed of all urgent or important messages by text.

**Website:** We've got a great website that is kept right up to date. There's opportunity for you to feedback on there too. [www.edmondsley.durham.sch.uk](http://www.edmondsley.durham.sch.uk)

**Facebook:** Our Facebook page was introduced last year in response to parents/carers wanting to know more about what their child was doing in school. This has proven to be a great way for the school to share noteworthy happenings around the school and share important news rapidly. 'Thank you' to those parents who have actively engaged with our Facebook page with such positiveness. Please bear in mind, however, that your comments do not lead to any children being identified - even your own! Facebook is not an intended forum to contact the school about any issues. This should be done by any other communication methods.

**Post:** Our address is: Edmondsley Primary and Nursery, Congburn Bank, Edmondsley, Durham, DH7 6DU.

**School closure notices:** During extreme snowy weather you will be notified of our school closure by one, or all of these: local radio announcements, a message on the school website, on Facebook or a text message.

I trust you find this issue of the Governor Newsletter interesting and informative. Staff and Governors are looking forward to the year ahead and the learning and personal development opportunities our children will undoubtedly experience at Edmondsley Primary and Nursery School. For more Governor information, please visit the Governors' Page on the school website at [www.edmondsley.durham.sch.uk](http://www.edmondsley.durham.sch.uk)