

We learn to live...



...and live to learn.

## Newsletter from the School Governors

### So, what is a school governor?

School governors are volunteers who provide strategic leadership and accountability to run the school; we are collectively known as the governing body. We are involved in decisions about all aspects of managing the school – such as running buildings and budgets, supporting staff and setting standards of school discipline.

Governors help to make big decisions about the school's long-term goals, supporting and asking questions of our Head Teacher to make sure he is taking the school in the right direction. We also commit to visiting the school and observing classes, meeting with subject leads, interviewing etc. and reporting back to governors.

Anyone over 18 can be a school governor and you don't have to have a child at the school. The most important qualities for being a governor are enthusiasm, commitment and an interest in

If you have a background in an Educational setting, and/or you are skilled at data analysis then please get in touch as we currently have vacancies for co-opted governors. All you need to do to be considered is complete the form on the website [HERE](#). Expressions of interest should be sent in to the school office by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September and the Chair or Vice-Chair will then be in touch. Full training and support will be available to those new to a governing body role.

education. You don't need teaching experience, but it's useful to bring skills from other areas of your life. You'll need to be able to work well in a team, as you'll be making joint decisions on policy.

### School news: celebrating success

We are always delighted by the successes of our pupils in the curriculum and beyond. The school is regularly complimented on the behaviour of our pupils, on residential stays and visits, and we are very proud of our pupils who take part in events whether on-site or off. Congratulations to our pupils that won the local area heat of the NYCC Debating Competition and then, at County Hall, came second against the other 7 area finalists. Congratulations also to those pupils who

### Riverside in the community

We are really pleased that Riverside School was shortlisted for the Tour De Yorkshire Land Art Competition!



Riverside competed against 11 other entries which included works by professional artists!

## School site activity

You will have noticed building works to several areas of the site. We were delighted the school negotiated a 'Develop Contribution' from the new housing development at Newton Kyme. It will be no surprise to hear that the funding came with some rules attached so although we would have liked to support other refurbishing in school, a school hall extension and additions to a few other existing facilities has been possible.

### ***As a governing body, we're pleased to see:***

- Another room the size of the existing canteen at the courtyard end of the hall - possibilities for use include a whole school library and group teaching space;
- A new multi-use meeting room at the rear of the canteen - which may be used for meetings as well as pupil teaching groups;
- A refurbished courtyard with a new 'floating' canopy, planters, block paving and seating;
- Refurbished toilet facilities for Years 1 and 2;
- Refurbished Key Stage 1 corridor.

The school is also installing new touchscreen computer technology into 4 classrooms, and Friends of Riverside are looking to sponsor an art installation early in the Autumn term to complete the look of the courtyard entrance.



competed in the STAR Spelling Bee – pupils from Years 3, 4, and 5 won their competitions, and as a school we came second overall (with only 2 points between first and second place!).

## School News: initiatives

Riverside, this year, was highly commended and gained its fourth eco-schools' greenflag (now the longest standing greenflag school in NYCC and one of only a handful to have won the award 4 times). We were again commended on earning the Primary Science Quality Mark silver award for all of the positive practical science work pupils engage in, including the STEM weeks. Riverside has also just gained the school sports' GOLD award which has amongst its criteria the need for ALL pupils to be challenged to maintain an active healthy lifestyle and engage significantly with active PE at school.



## Forward planning

As you'd expect from a governing body, we've been planning ahead and, with the leadership and teaching staff in the school, have taken part in a "partnership school review report". Colleagues from the Swaledale Alliance acted as our inspectors and put everyone - including the governing body - to the test. Pleasingly, the governing body were described as extremely knowledgeable about the school's performance from regular visits and reports from leaders at all levels.

They commented that we shared consistent priorities and developments with the Senior Leadership team, and there was felt to be a 'joined up' sense of purpose and direction for the school.

They also commented that the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher are confidently leading the school and they share a deep knowledge and understanding of the pupils, the school's context and the staff.

## Governor Meetings

From the new school year, we will be changing the structure of our meetings. We currently have a rolling programme of a full governing body meeting, a school improvement committee and a resources committee once a term. From September, we will move to one meeting a month during the school year. Minutes from the meetings are available for you to view – to access them, click the Governors tab on the website <http://www.riverside.n-yorks.sch.uk/governors>.