



SUMMER TERM 2019

NEWS FROM THE BENTHAL GOVERNORS

Your Governors

The Governing Board of Benthal Primary School is made up of parent governors, school elected representatives, co-opted governors, a local authority appointed governor and the Headteacher.

Who We Are

Louise Drew, Headteacher
Jo Carter, Chair of Governors
Fatima Haffeji, Staff Governor
Henry Greenwood, Community Governor
Mandy Ayres, Community Governor
Michael Simpson, Community Governor

Nathan Waddington, Community Governor
Councillor Sem Moema, Local Authority Governor
Shabnum Hassan, Parent Governor
Stella Sandford, Vice-Chair of Governors
Susannah Barker, Parent Governor
Tom Hindson, Community Governor

Updates

We have welcomed a new member to the Governing Board this term, Michael Simpson, who has been appointed the Link Governor for Safeguarding. Previously a Policy Adviser at the NSPCC with several years of experience working in related roles, Michael now works for the global children's charity Theirworld. He has an expert understanding of child protection and the associated legislation and practice.

During the summer term, governors have visited the school on many occasions; we have talked to teachers, teaching assistants and children as well as the Senior Leadership Team. Between us we have seen the curriculum in action in classrooms, had a successful meeting with Benthal's School Improvement Partner from the Hackney Learning Trust, observed the Yr 6 SATs, undertaken a health and safety tour of the school and more!

We have been updated on the improvements to the premises, inside and out, and discussed the impact of the introduction of new schemes of work including White Rose for maths across the school and Get Writing for the younger years.

We are also working with the Senior Leadership Team to market Benthal and recruit future pupils, spreading the word about how great Benthal is. Benthal's Twitter account is up and running and there will be a brand-new website launching in September.

And finally, Happy 70th Anniversary Benthal! The anniversary celebrations are a great way for the children to celebrate the school and some of us will be there to see the children dressed up for Friday's Grand Tea Party – a great immersive, living history experience for all of us.

Blog

Learners - Fatima

As the Link Governor for Health and Safety, I regularly tour the school with Anna to look out for any issues with the Benthall buildings and outside space. It is fantastic to see how much work has been done over the last school year and it is lovely to see the whole school community enjoying the improvements. Having a safe and well-looked after school environment is a great boost to the children's learning.

Achievers – Tom

In the last term I've been working with Anna, the School Business Manager, preparing the budget for the year and looking at some of the exciting developments that will be coming to Benthall over the summer such as the new Library and IT room. Both of these new facilities will provide great new opportunities for everyone at Benthall to continue to develop and achieve. The plans look great and we can't wait for Benthall's pupils and parents to start enjoying them and using them from September!

Friends – Nathan

I often have meetings with Ms Drew at 0900. I am always early for them. I blame my nan who taught me three, very important life lessons. Never be late. Always have a tissue in your pocket and ALWAYS go to the loo before leaving home. When I arrive I like to sit on the big, blue sofa in reception and watch the school come to life. Doors open and close. People come and go. Everyone says hello. Everyone has a big smile on their face. Benthall is waking up and the day is getting started and, no matter what the rest of the day has in store for me, it always makes me happy.

Meetings This Term

Personnel Committee – 11th June

Curriculum Committee – 18th June

Finance & Premises Committee – 25th June

Full Governing Board – 9th July

The minutes of Full Governing Board meetings are made available on the website and in the school office as soon as they are agreed.

Contact

If you would like to contact the governors please email us at the following address:

governors@benthall.hackney.sch.uk.

Please note that emails are reviewed weekly so there may be a short delay before you get a response.

If you have a concern regarding the day-to-day running of the school please discuss this with any member of the teaching staff, office staff or senior leadership team. If they cannot resolve the issue then they will pass the details on to the relevant member of staff who will respond to you as quickly as they can. The Governing Board is not able to get involved at this stage and emails regarding these concerns will be forwarded on to Ms Drew.

The Role of the Governing Board

The role of the governors is to seek to ensure that the school operates in a way that provides the best possible educational experience for all of its children in a safe and stimulating environment where the aspirations of all are high. In addition to this we also have a number of significant statutory roles to perform concerned with ensuring that the school operates in a fair and efficient way achieving best value for money.

Governors have no role to play in the day-to-day running of the school but they do maintain a strategic overview of what the school should be aiming to achieve for all of the children. They also hold the senior leadership team to account for the performance of the school.

The governors at the school also regard it as fundamentally important that the school operates in as transparent a manner as possible in all that it does. We are striving to improve communication and to ensure that the school provides all parents and carers with all the information they require for them to assess how the school is performing. We believe that by doing so we maintain an impetus for continued improvement.