

# Governor Newsletter

## January 2018

### Happy New Year!



Welcome to the latest Governor newsletter, I cannot believe another year has gone by so quickly.

I am sure I speak for all the Governors when I say that last year was another challenging and memorable year at Dronfield Juniors.

The Governors have been coming into the School on a regular basis, not just for meetings, but to help and support the staff and be involved in helping to make the children's school experience, knowledgeable and enjoyable.

The Governors are in the school observing a range of different lessons including English, Maths and topic lessons throughout the year; they also assist during SATS week.

We are continually looking at ourselves to make sure we are effective as possible as a board of governors.

As a Board of Governors, we are keen to share our experience with you all, as you can see from the articles below.

Richard Gilson  
Vice Chair of Governors

#### Mile a Day

**Governors were pleased to hear plenty of positive feedback from pupils and teachers who have been taking part in our 'Mile a Day' initiative.**

**'Mile a Day' involves pupils running or walking around the playground for approximately ten minutes each day.**

**Our children have set themselves targets to beat and some have moved from walking the laps, to running. As a result, one child has started running in her spare time!**

Teachers say they have clearly seen the benefits both in and out of the classroom. Reluctant movers have become runners. They've seen generally improved fitness and lots of friendly competition.

Schools from all around the country are involved. All have the same aim of getting our kids moving.

**Sarah Sinclair**  
**Parent Governor (PE Governor)**

### Art award

Last year saw the launch of the Governors' Art Award. Presented at the end of year assembly, talented sketcher Michael Waite, from Year 3 was the well deserved winner.

There's so much striking art work displayed throughout the school. Art is loved by many of our pupils. However Governors felt this work was not always celebrated.

We look forward to seeing what our budding artists produce over the coming months!

**Sarah Sinclair**  
**Parent Governor**

### **Mount Cook Residential - September 2017**

I had the honour of accompanying the Y5 school trip to the Mount Cook Adventure Centre near Wirksworth.

After settling the children into the coaches, the few nervous individuals soon forgot their apprehensions and looked forward to this experience. Upon arrival, we were met by the enthusiastic Mount Cook team and the children were shown their rooms.

There were many activities and our party of about 83 pupils were divided into teams of about 8. Each team had to pick their own name. Over the time we were there, the groups were rotated between activities so that each child could have a go at all of them.

There was an emphasis on climbing activities but each required differing skills. The children enjoyed all but especially both archery events (target and tag) and fencing.

It was quite amusing for me to see one teacher joyfully shooting her son in tag archery!

The children were entertained the first evening with a camp fire with entertainment provided by the Mount Cook staff with a musical addition by Mr Burrows and myself on ukulele and guitar respectively.

There was a disco on the second evening and it was funny to see the children screaming “No!” and running away when *that* song from Frozen was played!

The children built up a great rapport with the team leaders and some were quite sad to say goodbye to them.

I can't get the Zombie song out of my head!

Christopher Seller  
Parent Governor

### **France Residential – October 2017**

I attended the French trip again this year; it was a great trip enjoyed by all.

To see traditional France is a great experience and I am sure the children love trying their French language skills as do the teachers and myself ... I have to say mine is a bit like a sketch from Allo Allo but I am getting better.

There was plenty to do and see including: making (and eating, although not the ones we made!) croissants and baguettes; seeing all the marine life at the biggest Sealife Centre in Europe, pondering for some quiet moments at the World War I cemetery, haggling at a French market, eating crepes at a local café, learning about how cheese is made without machinery at a local goat farm and tasting some exquisite (and expensive) chocolate at a bespoke chocolate factory.

A trip to create a lifetime of great memories.

Richard Gilson  
Vice Chair of Governors

## **Birmingham and Buckinghamshire Residential – November 2017**

I also attended the trip to Cadbury World and the Harry Potter Museum; again another memorable trip. Seeing the chocolate process from start to finish, is fascinating and the children used this knowledge to great effect in the Chocolate Enterprise initiative just before Christmas.

Harry Potter World does not need any introduction; the children had the chance to see how the films are made and the hard work that is required to make the films so popular.

As always on residential trips the children need to act responsible and remember that they are representing the school.

The children are a credit to not only themselves, but to you as parents/carers and to the school. We have had people come up to us on many occasions to say how well behaved the children are.

It makes me proud to be part of the group and the school. I would like to thank you for supporting these trips, this is much appreciated.

If you would like to read about other activities that the Governors are involved with please let me know and I will build them into the next newsletter.

Richard Gilson  
Vice Chair of Governors