

Berkeley Primary School

Headteacher: Anna Cvijetic BEd (Hons)
Deputy Headteacher: Wendy Howlett BA (Hons)
Marsden Drive
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 8AH

☎ 01724 867065
💻 www.berkeleyprimary.co.uk
✉ admin.berkeleyprimary@northlincs.gov.uk



Spring 2024 - Governors' Newsletter

As we bid farewell to another term, the Governors would like to take a moment to celebrate the incredible hard work and dedication shown by both our pupils and staff. It's been another term filled with achievements and moments to be proud of.

Updates on the Governing Board

Here at Berkeley Primary, we're a very proactive and approachable team of Governors, who can often be found around school or present at school activities. We are visible to all staff, pupils, and parents and form an important link between the school and our local community.

Governors have a strategic role within the school, our key responsibilities are:

- Approving the budget and overseeing the financial performance of the school. We ensure school money is well spent and in line with the objectives set out in our school development plan.
- Appointing and holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

Since the introduction of the school motto "Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day" we have developed this into our vision and this is at the core of everything we do. It underpins our teaching and learning and provides an environment which prepares our pupils to become happy citizens. More information on our vision is available on the website. <https://www.berkeleyprimary.co.uk/our-vision/>

This year we have seen some changes to the Board. Sadly we said goodbye to Emma Cole, who has been a Governor since 2015. Emma's knowledgeable input and unwavering commitment have left some very big shoes to fill, but we're very pleased to announce we have also been joined by Ralph Roberts who has a wealth of knowledge we are already making great use of.

Please visit our governor webpage to find out more about who we are. This includes a 'meet the governors' page as well as past issues of this newsletter. www.berkeleyprimary.co.uk/meet-the-governors/

YOU can be a school Governor!

We are still looking for people to join our team. If you are interested in supporting the school in any way please let us know.

- Do you want to make a difference?
- Are you looking to develop your skills and experience by volunteering?
- Do you have knowledge and experience you think would add value?

If you think you can, please speak to the office or email the chair of governors, j.veall@berkeleyprimary.co.uk

Progress of School Development Actions for academic year 2023-2024

As we come to the end of the second term of the academic year, we are pleased to report the continued success of our school as a result of the dedicated and hardworking staff. We are making great progress against the actions of our School Development Plan. A few examples are;

- We have developed and embedded our vision for Oracy throughout the school. This is prevalent in all aspects of teaching giving pupils opportunities to express and articulate their own views as well as listen respectfully to the views of others. This is being further developed in opportunities outside the classroom, such as assemblies and lunchtimes. Governors have seen evidence of this during pupil interviews on recent learning walks and general engagements with the children. We can see the level of confidence throughout the school has increased and hopefully, this is seen outside school too.
- Our phonics practices have reached new heights of effectiveness, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our staff and the invaluable guidance from the English Hub. The governors have been thoroughly impressed with the results of the new phonics practices implemented within our school. Taking on board feedback from the English Hub, we embarked on a journey to enhance phonics teaching and improve results for Key Stage 1 students and we are thrilled to see these efforts bearing fruit. The new practices have been meticulously developed and seamlessly embedded into our curriculum. Like a well-oiled machine, they run smoothly, consistently, and with precision. But what truly sets them apart is the level of engagement they foster among our students. From the moment phonics lessons begin, our classrooms buzz with enthusiasm and energy. Students eagerly participate, soaking up knowledge like sponges and applying their newfound skills with confidence. It's a joy to witness their progress and see their love for reading and literacy flourish.
- At Berkeley Primary, we believe that a love of reading is one of the greatest gifts we can impart to our students. Step into our school, and you'll see evidence of reading in every corner. From the bustling hallways to the cosy nooks of our classrooms, books are everywhere, and the joy of reading is palpable. One of the most heartwarming sights is seeing each member of our staff proudly displaying the book they are currently reading. Whether it's a gripping novel, a thought-provoking memoir, or a captivating work of non-fiction, our staff lead by example, showing our students that reading is not just a task, but a pleasure to be savoured. But it doesn't stop there. In every classroom, you'll find inviting book corners filled with a treasure trove of literary delights. From classic tales to contemporary favourites, our carefully curated collections offer something for every taste and interest, inspiring our students to explore new worlds and broaden their horizons through the magic of books. What truly sets our approach apart is the emphasis we place on peer-to-peer recommendations. Through initiatives like book swaps and book clubs, our students have the opportunity to share their favourite reads, sparking lively discussions and fostering a sense of camaraderie among fellow readers. As a result, children are not only seeing the adults in their lives as fellow readers but also each other. The love of books permeates our school community, and conversations about reading are abuzz with excitement and enthusiasm. We firmly believe that by nurturing a culture of literacy, we are equipping our students with more than just the ability to read – we are instilling in them a lifelong passion for learning, empathy, and discovery.

More information on any of our subject areas and curriculum can be found on our website.

Governor Monitoring

Each term the Governors carry out a learning walk, focusing on a specific subject or area of the School Development Plan to see the actions that have taken place and monitor the impact on the children.

In the autumn term we focused on SEND provision throughout the school where we witnessed real strength in leadership from our SEND-Co and assistant SEND-Co. There was consistent and inclusive teaching throughout the school, teachers have high expectations for all pupils and know each child well enough to provide targeted support where necessary.

Our focus in the spring term was Maths, where we witnessed the new approach to times tables in KS2 which was well embedded with a highly positive impact on all pupils. The pupils and staff were very enthusiastic. Maths has a high profile in all classrooms and there was great use of maths vocabulary throughout the lessons.

Governor Visibility in School

One of the most rewarding aspects of being a governor is the time we spend in school with pupils and staff. Hearing directly from the children about their life at Berkeley Primary, as well as engaging with leaders about their areas of expertise, ensures that the decisions we make are pupil-driven, evidence-based and have the desired outcomes.

During the Autumn and Spring terms, Governors have been present at many of the Inspire Afternoons throughout the school, which allow us to see the curriculum in action whilst being visible to the children and parents. We have also been very proud to be present at all parent/carers workshops, SEND coffee mornings, and parents' evenings to raise the profile of governors and get first-hand feedback from stakeholders.

We have participated in numerous school visits, including The Deep, Jorvik Centre, York Railway Museum and a morning at the UTC. We also have had the pleasure of accompanying pupils at many sporting events such as football, bowling, dodgeball and sports hall athletics. The pupils never fail to astound with their commitment and skill level often coming away with a medal, but more importantly, their behaviour is impeccable and they always display tremendous sportsmanship, which is a testament to the coaching they receive.

Our Chair of Governor, John Veall and Parent Governor, Jamie Mitcheson, went along on the residential trip to Robinwood with children from years 5 and 6, where they had an amazing time. This was John's 25th residential!!! The feedback from Robinwood staff about the behaviour and comradery of our pupils was positively glowing.

We've also been taking part in Secret Storyteller in numerous classes, reading books or chapters of books that we enjoy to a class. Secret Storyteller is available to any member of the community who would like to come in and read. Please just let the class teacher know if you're interested and remember the secret is the children don't know who is going to read to them that day!

Attendance of Student Council Meetings

The elected children from each class in year 2 to year 6 meet once every half-term to discuss issues important to the pupils. Governors attend to listen and help facilitate discussions in the breakout groups. This year the council have completed the child-friendly safeguarding policy, started by the previous year's council and presented this back to their classes. They've surveyed their classes about feeling safe in school where they found the overwhelming majority of our pupils feel safe in school but that some children feel less safe on the way to and from school, so they are doing further investigation into why this is and will suggest ways to improve. This half-term they also began writing a child-friendly behaviour policy. We were impressed to hear them discussing how "Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day" is woven into the way they behave and interact with each other.

Actions from Feedback at Parent's Evening

It was fabulous to hear all the positive feedback in all areas of the school and how positively adults and children spoke about their experiences in the school. All feedback from parents at the recent parents' evening has been collated and discussed at the Governor's meeting, actions will be made and reported on where possible.

To reiterate our school day begins at 8.45am, so our children arrive just after 8.35am. We open the gates and let the children in around 8.40am so they are ready to start their day. Information can be found

<https://www.berkeleyprimary.co.uk/the-school-day/>

Please also note that the school website is constantly updated with information on the class pages and the subject pages. There's lots of information about what your children are learning and ways in which you can support this at home. Please take some time to look at all the resources available.

From all the Governors we hope you have a restful Easter break and look forward to welcoming you back in the Summer Term.