

News from the Governors

October 2022



The new academic year is well underway – a warm welcome to all new families who have recently joined us. Calcot is a very community orientated school, warm and friendly and I'm sure staff and other parents have made you feel welcome.

Governors have already held our first full governing board meeting (FGB), as well as a strategy group meeting to focus on Ofsted – Calcot is expecting inspections this term.

At our FGB in September we saw some changes to the governing body leadership. Mark Hazelton our Chair of Governors for the last 3 years stepped down, Joe Lally and myself were elected as Joint Chair of Governors. Being Joint Chairs enables us to share the responsibility of leading governance and uses the strengths we both bring to the role. Both Joe and I have been involved in education for 30+ years, Joe specialising in Special Needs and Curriculum, I have wide experience in overall school management and finance). Thank you Mark for all your hard work, your leadership over the last 3 years has been invaluable. I am very pleased that Mark has agreed to remain as a governor at our school and has moved from being Parent Governor to Co-opted Governor.

Andrew Marsh, Local Authority governor, has stepped down after many years of governorship at our school (2001). Thank you Andrew for all your years of being part of our school's governing body, his careful eye on the school's finances has led us through some particularly difficult times. Like all schools we are facing massive increases in costs with no increase to our budgets. Through careful planning and monitoring we are in a reasonable state financially.

We have three vacancies on our governing body and we ask all parents to give serious thought to becoming a governor at our school. Perhaps you know of a family member (grandparents, aunts, uncles, or friends) who you feel would make a good governor; we have roles on our Board as a Co-opted Governor. No matter what your background and experience, everyone has something they can contribute. What is essential is that you have enthusiasm and commitment to making sure children at our school get the best possible start in life through their education.

If you would like to find out more about what is involved in being a governor then do please get in touch. You can contact our Clerk to Governors Alice Elliott via email – aelliott@calcot.w-berks.sch.uk or check out our page on our school's website <https://www.calcotschools.co.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=22> where you will find a download on **What Does a Governor do.**

We will be sending out information for a **Parent Governor election** on Monday 10th October so do please look out for this.

As governors we are extremely proud of our staffing team, within West Berkshire we are seen as a lead school in many areas.

Health & Safety – following a recent H&S audit by West Berkshire our school is classed as outstanding! Very well done to our team on maintaining our outstanding status in this very important area. And many thanks to Mark Hazelton for his lead on holding the school to account – a key responsibility of governors.

We also have a number of staff who are leading teachers in their particular field of expertise. This is work they do over and above their teaching role where they support colleagues in other schools.

We are all aware that life is going to get tough for many families this winter. Don't forget that the school is here to help if we can – we will listen and we will try and direct you to agencies that could help you. Keep in touch with the school if you are struggling to pay for trips, uniform etc. We want all children to be able to be fully involved in our excellent educational activities that enhance your child's education. It may be that your child is eligible for the government's Pupil Premium Grant. If you don't know what this is and want to find out more do talk to our school office who will put you in touch with the appropriate member of staff to talk to.

As governors we always like to hear parent views on our school – *what works well, what could be better*. We use your views to shape the education provision for your children. Governors will be in school during the parent/teacher meetings on **Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th October** and we do hope you will stop and have a chat with us.

Julia Kidd & Joe Lally
Joint Chairs of Governors