



NEWSLETTER 14
FRIDAY December 19th 2008



Season's greetings

As we come to the end of this term I want to say a big thank you to everyone who has made my start as Headteacher at Longwell Green so pleasurable. I was very enthusiastic about the prospect of taking on the position of head but I didn't realise that I would be made to feel so welcome. The school has a very good reputation in the local community and I have become aware of the reasons why this reputation has been so strongly deserved: a strong commitment by the staff do doing their very best for the children; children who are caring and keen to engage fully with their learning and school life; and parents who support the school and respect what it is trying to do. I look forward to coming back for more in January! I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Gymnastics Club

It's time for enrolling for next term, Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30 pm. Cost is £24.00 for 6 weeks. If you are interested please call 0117 9476449 and ask for Sam or Tina. Many thanks. *Kingswood Gym*

Lost Property

Two items were left after the Christmas Disco last Friday, one umbrella and one camera; please call into the office if either of these items belongs to you.

Dancing classes

Want to try some 'Strictly Come Dancing'? Want to get some exercise after the holiday excesses? Dancing classes for adults are held in the school on Tuesday evenings between 8.00 and 10.00. Practise sessions in Ballroom, Latin American, Oldtime and Modern sequence dances with short lessons in all styles. Cost £4.00 per evening. Classes for beginners can be arranged. Please call Terry or Elaine on 0117 9323071

THE GOVERNING BODY

As we now have a regular school newsletter the governors have decided to update parents using this channel of communication.

There are 14 governors of the school, along with two associate governors. The present members are:

<i>Local authority appointed governors</i>	<i>Parent governors</i>	<i>Community governors</i>	<i>Staff governors</i>	<i>Associate governors</i>
Mrs Elaine Skidmore (Chair) Vacancy	Mrs Claire Pring Mr Nigel Gazzard Mr Mike Henry Mr Chris Pring Vacancy	Rev David Adams Mrs Pam Blackmore Mrs Sheila Davies	Mr Don Sibley Mrs Carol Bowker Mrs Jenny Hatcliffe	Mr Paul Staight Miss Elizabeth Rogers

The clerk to the governing body is Mrs Karen Llewelyn (recently appointed in November).

The term of office of each governor is four year. There is currently a vacancy for a Parent Governor, following the recent resignation of Mrs Kirsty Harding (please see below for more details).

The governors meet approximately once per term as a full governing body. The date of the next meeting is TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 2009 at 7.15. These meetings are 'open' so parents are very welcome to attend and observe the proceedings.

The governors are also sub-divided into three sub-committees: 1) Finance and Facilities; 2) School Development; 3) Personnel and Pupil Support. These committees also meet regularly throughout the year. Agenda and minutes from all governor meetings are published on the school website.

Governors can always be contacted via the school office if you have any queries.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

This will be advertised in term 3 after the Christmas holiday. Governors are volunteers and there is no remuneration but it is extremely interesting and rewarding. You will need to have time to make visits to school and be able to attend meetings (some employers are able to facilitate this as part of their community work). Training is available to enhance your knowledge of education and governance. Please do consider whether to put your name forward (particularly if you have skills in finance or personnel matters!)

AUTUMN REVIEW

Terms 1 and 2 have been very busy. The school community has warmly welcomed Mr Sibley as the Headteacher of Longwell Green Primary School. We are looking to appoint a new Deputy Headteacher for September 2009, and this process will start soon after Christmas.

Mr Sibley has been working very hard on the School Improvement Plan and with the governors and the Senior Leadership team he will be formulating a plan for the next three years, and there will certainly be challenging times ahead in terms of managing the budget among other things. Mr Sibley has already made a huge impact within the school. The governors are delighted with his appointment and are looking forward to working together in 2009 to shape the future direction of the school.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy Christmas.

Elaine Skidmore (Chair of Governors)



