



As another school year comes to a close, the Governors of Abbey Gates Primary School wanted to share some of work that they have observed during a few of their monitoring visits this academic year. Here are some examples of what they have seen when they visit the school.

Colin Barnard – Chair of Governors

Andrew Elkington – Co-opted Governor

During the school year we've taken a look at children's personal development and behaviours both in the classroom and at play. Examples of the many positive things we experienced were:

Sticky Questions - the level of debate and discussion matures through year groups, while the underlying concept of the activity and engagement from the children remains the same.

Pupil Parliament - representatives are all very articulate. All ministerial roles are linked to the "Aim High, Be Kind" school motto. The Kindness Minister helps the other children identify what bullying is and how to prevent it.

Hot Chocolate Friday - children talked about school enrichment and what they have learnt from it.

All of these activities enrich the children's learning, and we never cease to be impressed with how many of these events the teaching staff are able to organise alongside all of their curricular responsibilities to the children.

Carl Boettcher – Parent Governor

As a parent governor I have been delighted with the progress at Abbey Gates through the OPAL project (Outdoor Play And Learning). Clearly the children have loved the freedom and creativity the OPAL project enables but the staff have also seen positive outcomes from the process. Looking forward to seeing how the play team and children in school develop this initiative in 2024.

Stuart Bestwick – Co-opted Governor

As a new Governor, I wanted to understand the challenges and ambitions of Abbey Gates as quickly as possible. I attended all the Governor meetings and spent 30 minutes prior to each meeting discussing the curriculum with the various class teachers.

I was also pleased to help at the recent Summer Fair and had a great time serving behind the bar whilst getting to meet lots of parents. Although our position next to the disco made chatting quite a challenge!

Earlier in the term I was delighted to attend a special, interactive course in the school about flooding, its causes and prevention with Year 5. This was a Nottinghamshire County Council initiative and included the use of model houses showing the course of rainfall and a virtual rainfall computer attached to a 3D model. All the children seemed to enjoy the experience and I'm sure it's a subject they will return to during the course of their school lives.



Francesca Potter – Co-opted Governor

It was great to have the opportunity to visit the school and hear from children about how much they are enjoying outdoor learning. They described how they were able to conduct science experiments and maths investigations outside. The orienteering activities have been really popular and have provided an opportunity to learn new information in a fun way.

The children also told us about their writing and were able to show us some amazing examples. A priority for this year has been helping the children to develop the speech and language skills that are needed for writing. The children we spoke to have a really good understanding of why this is important and had found it helpful for their own writing.

I met with the SENCO Mrs Durham (Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator) to talk about changes that the school has made to the way they support children with special educational needs and disabilities. Mrs Durham has researched the most effective ways to track the progress of children with additional needs, including the use of a new framework for assessing progress and developing targets to work towards.

Mrs Durham will be working closely with children, families and school staff to plan, put in to place and review support. Pupil profiles, providing information on targets and helpful strategies, will be one way of communicating this information to those working with the children. I also heard about the current intervention groups, which include Forest School time, Fun Fit and Precision Teaching, and how they can support children to develop the skills they need for learning in the classroom.

As you can see a lot is happening within the school. The Governors have really enjoyed seeing what the children are learning and experiencing much of the hard work that is continually put in by the staff.

We hope that you have a great summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Barnard and the Governors at Abbey Gates.