



BLACKFORDBY
ST. MARGARET'S
C of E PRIMARY
SCHOOL

Rise
Flourish & Succeed



Blackfordby Newsletter

Autumn Term December 2024

'By their fruits shall you know them.' Matthew 12:33

From Mrs Ryder-Smith

It is certainly feeling very Christmassy at Blackfordby this week. We have been treated to two amazing nativity performances, had a 'Crafternoon' and have been lucky enough to attend the pantomime.

Mrs Carrington has been extremely busy trying to ensure you are informed about all the dates that are coming up.

Staffing update - Most of you will know that Mr Onions will leave us at Christmas to take up a new role. We would like to thank him for all his hard work and commitment to our children and to Blackfordby School. Mrs Bailey will start after the holidays, she has been in today to meet with teachers and pupils.

Thank you to all that FOBS have done, and continue to do, in the lead up to Christmas. The Santa Fun run was a huge success, as was the disco. We have a vacancy for a school governor. If anyone is interested or would like more information please ask our Chair, Mr Tipton or myself.

I hope you and your families all have a wonderful Christmas, as always if there is anything we can do to support you please let us know.

Important Dates

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 20th December | School Closes for Christmas Holidays |
| 6th January | School Reopens |
| 14th February | Staff Inset Day (School Closed) |
| 17th-21st February | Half Term |
| 11th April | School Closes for Easter holidays |
| 28th April | School Reopens |
| 5th May | Bank Holiday |
| 26th-30th May | Half Term |
| 10th July | School Closes for Summer Holiday |
| 25th August | Bank Holiday |
| 26th August | School Reopens |

Collective Worship

This week we are looking at the meaning of Advent and why it is more than a chocolate treat in the morning! Advent is the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas as we anticipate and prepare for the arrival of Jesus.



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Following our parent questionnaire, a few parents mentioned being unsure how the trust support us. Last week we had a teaching and learning review which was led by two of the trust directors. They visited lesson's, spoke to children about their learning and met with me to discuss the progress that our school is making any any further support they can offer.

These reviews happen each term and the outcomes are shared with governors



Parking at School

Can we please ensure we are not parking on the yellow zig zag lines outside of school at any time. These are an essential road safety measure there to safeguard children's lives.

When picking up or dropping off children at school, you should do the following:



- Allow yourself plenty of time as the area is likely to be busy.
- Do not park on yellow zigzag lines and avoid parking opposite them.
- If you decide to park further away, please be considerate of local residents and avoid blocking driveways or access ways.

Governors

We have a vacancy for a Governor. If you or someone you know may want to apply, please look at the governance leaflet and form or speak to Mrs Ryder-Smith.


Please can we ensure all clothing, lunch boxes and drinks bottles are clearly labelled with your children's names.

Stay Connected with Arbor, Class Dojo, and Relish

Please ensure you're registered on Arbor, Class Dojo, and Relish:

- Relish: Pre-order your child's meals, including special ones like Christmas dinner. Orders must be placed by the deadlines, as we cannot do this for you.
- Arbor & Class Dojo: Stay informed about events, updates, and key deadlines. Update emergency contact details as needed.

If you need help setting up or using these platforms, feel free to visit the school office—we're happy to assist



**School closes
December 20th
and re-opens
January 6th**





LOCAL GOVERNANCE AT RISE

FLOURISHING SCHOOLS



**Do you have some time to
volunteer?**

**Would you like to contribute
to shaping the education of
the next generation?**

**If so, you may want to be a
local governor in a Rise school.**

Introduction:

Thank you for showing an interest in becoming a local governor in a Rise school. Governors play an important role in helping the Board of Directors ensure that each school is the best it can be in the communities they serve.

As community volunteers your time and commitment is hugely valued by the Board. Within this short document we have tried to outline some of the things we are often asked by potential governors.

Again, thank you for taking the time to read this information and I hope you find it useful.

Stephen Adshead

Chair of Directors



What knowledge and skills do I need? Across the trust, local governors bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to their volunteer role. There is not one set of knowledge or experiences that add value per se. What we mostly look for is the right disposition. The desire to build relationships with the school and Rise. The drive to ask pertinent questions. The passion to think about all pupils in the school and the ambition for things to be even better.

What is the time commitment? There are four 2 hour meetings a year. Two in the autumn and then one in spring and summer. There is an expectation that the uploaded documents are read in advance. Our training and support is online and can be reviewed at a time that suits you. The minimum we ask is an annual refresher regarding safeguarding and GDPR and a one off engagement with our induction to governance at Rise resources. Other training is available online but optional. We encourage at least 4 local governors to visit the school at least once a year in their role as an advocate for:

- SEND pupils
- EYFS
- Culture and Ethos
- Safeguarding.

These governors would spend an additional 30 minutes watching a short training video and would spend a couple of hour's maximum a year, visiting and providing a short write up. We aim to strike the balance between recognising the role is voluntary, whilst valuing the service that you provide and thus investing in your training and development.

What do we do?

Most of the work of the local committees is done through the four meetings. You will receive papers, including the Head's report and you will often ask questions. You will also receive all of the review outputs from the Rise team; so you will also get a view of the school's strengths from outside of the school staff. Finally, you will have updates from any advocate visits to the school.

The Board have identified the 19 areas that they ask local governors to focus on and a further 2 for our Church of England schools. Please visit our website or scan this QR code, using your mobile phone, to see these. Below is a summary of the areas of focus.
<https://www.risemat.co.uk/local-governance-at-rise/>



Culture and ethos

Governors focus on the behaviour and attendance of pupils, asking good questions of school leaders. There is a wider focus on the vision and ethos of the school and how pupils are supported to be well rounded citizens. Governors also consider the diet of extra-curricular experiences available to all pupils.

Christian Distinctiveness (CofE schools only)

Governors ensure that the school's Christian vision and values are rooted in the local context and community and lived. They also focus on the distinctive character of worship and religious education.

Community

Governors ensure leaders are using the outcomes of parental surveys well. They also consider school level complaints, with the help of MAT colleagues.

Safeguarding

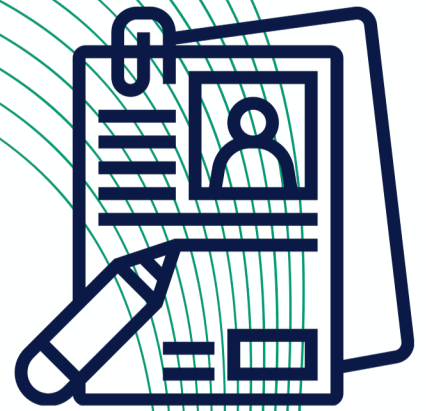
Governors understand the safeguarding culture that leaders have created and support and challenge them to strengthen or sustain excellence best practice.

School Improvement

Governors understand the quality of education that pupils receive, using MAT reports, Heads' reports and data. They ask leaders questions about the progress the school is making against its plans for improvement.

People

With the required training, governors support Headteacher recruitment and/or wider school staff recruitment. They review the staff survey outcomes and ask leaders what they are doing with said outcomes.



How to Apply:

An informal conversation with Stephen Adshead is welcomed, to arrange an appointment please email, recruitment@risemat.co.uk advising of a suitable date and time.

To express an interest in the role please submit your CV and a covering letter detailing your experience to recruitment@risemat.co.uk.

Once we have received your application we will be in touch to arrange an interview.

Contact us :

 www.risemat.co.uk

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