



GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER SUMMER TERM

Sherborne St. John Church of England Primary School

July 2016

Welcome to the second edition of the Governor newsletter

What's new?

Since our last newsletter in February its been all change on the Governing Board. We've said goodbye to Roger Shelvey who stood down from his role of Chair of the Governing body after 9 years on the Board. We thank him whole-heartedly for his commitment and hard work over this time. We've also added 3 new Governors: Suzanne Cox, Elizabeth Hatt and Diane Pound.

Following Roger's departure from the Board we needed a new Chair of Governors and we're delighted that Heidi Wadsworth was unanimously elected in this role. Since joining the Board a year ago Heidi has made a significant positive impact to both the full board responsibilities as well as on the Committees that she sits. You can read more about Heidi below.

What are we doing?

We'd like to start off by saying a huge well done to the children, parents, and teachers who worked so hard both in preparation for and during the SATS period. We are immensely proud of how the children coped during this challenging time and also of the great support they received from their teachers. Class Link Governors were privileged to be able to visit the School during this period and see first hand what a calm and supportive environment had been created.

Regular work at a committee level has continued with a large number of policies being reviewed and we've also commenced work on the school strategy document to ensure we are ready to start the 2016/17 year fully prepared.

Thank you once again to those of you that took the time to reply for complete the School Questionnaire last term. We've reviewed the feedback and are delighted with the overall a very positive response. We recognise that everybody's feedback is valuable and have taken actions relating to all of the points raised, one idea being to hold a literacy evening in the Autumn term following the success of the Maths evening.

We'll be profiling a different governor in each newsletter and this term you'll be able to find out a bit more about Rachel Ruane, a parent governor responsible for SEN (Special Educational Needs).

Did you know?

School governors are people who want to make a positive contribution to children's education. They are one of the largest volunteer forces in the country and have an important part to play in raising school standards.

National Governors' Association



Heidi Wadsworth
Chairman



Kevin Harris
Vice Chair



Priscilla Miller
Parent Governor



Rachel Ruane
Parent Governor



Diane Pound
Governor



Wendy Lovett
Staff Governor



Lynda Harding
Foundation Governor



Karen Payne
Headteacher



Elizabeth Hatt
Governor



Rev. John Hamilton
Ex-officio



Suzanne Cox
Governor



Heidi Wadsworth

Chair of Governors

Heidi became a Parent Governor in June 2015. Elected Chairman in May 2016. She is a member of the Human Resources Committee and has responsibility for Governor Training.

I am pleased to be writing to you from my new position as Chair of the Governing Body, although it feels a little odd to be writing about myself! I was elected as Chair in May of this year, and I am really looking forward to the challenges the role will entail.

For those that don't know me, I have two children in the school; Thom in Year 4 and Kiera in Year 1, and I have been a Parent Governor since June 2015. I have also been involved in the School Association for over 5 years, so I have probably asked you for either help or money (or both!) at one of our events. I am so pleased with the way the community of parents joins together to raise funds for the school, and it's a real privilege to have been involved with such a great team.

Since I joined the Governing Body, I have attended lots of training courses, including "Leadership and Development for Chairs and Prospective Chairs", which have all given me great insights into best practice ideas from Hampshire Governor Services and various other schools across Hampshire. I am keen to incorporate some of these ideas into our Governing Body, to ensure that we work effectively and efficiently, and ultimately to have a positive impact on the children in our school.

I feel very lucky that my children attend such a wonderful local school, and I am immensely proud to be involved in supporting Mrs Payne and the school staff. I look forward to working closely with the school to identify areas for improvement for our current and future pupils, ensuring we continue to offer each and every child a high quality education, which develops them intellectually, socially, morally, physically and spiritually. My aim for my term of office is to maintain our Good Ofsted rating, and look at areas that we can improve to Outstanding.

Rachel Ruane

Parent Governor

Rachel became a Parent Governor in September 2014. She is a member of the Human Resources Committee and has responsibility for SEND.



I was elected as a Parent Governor in July 2014. I've lived in the village for eight years and all four of my children currently attend this school, so I am very keen to help maintain the school's high standards and drive for further improvement.

I am a chartered physiotherapist and worked for 8 years in the NHS. This professional background has helped me understand the need to provide evidence for monitoring purposes and the importance of treating each individual as an individual.

I am currently a member of both the HR committee and the Curriculum committee, which support my role as the Special Educational Needs (SEN) link governor. The role of the SEN link Governor is to oversee provision within the school on behalf of the Governing Body. To fulfill this role I have attended courses provided by Hampshire county council and meet regularly with the SEN coordinator (Mrs Payne), to understand the provision made for pupils with defined special educational needs but also any other pupils that may need a bit of extra help. I am then able to monitor this alongside the implementation of the SEN policy.

As a Governing Body we aim to support and challenge the school to ensure that a fully inclusive and positive learning environment is provided so that each child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.