



Cheriton Primary School

Governor Newsletter

18th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the governors' termly newsletter.

Governor News

We are delighted to welcome two new governors to the board this term. They introduce themselves below and explain their motivation to join the Governing Body at Cheriton.

Caro O'Brien – elected parent governor

"I am very excited to be joining the governing body at Cheriton Primary School as a parent governor and support its staff in continuing to achieve the best for all its the pupils. Having been part of this community for almost a year now, I am very aware of the school's warm, nurturing and family-orientated ethos, which is incredibly special to be part of. When I am not on maternity leave, looking after our newest edition to the tribe (almost enough for a football team!), I am making a creative mess in the art room teaching Art at Prince's Mead School. As you might expect, I am particularly passionate about developing creativity in children and ensuring their well-being and mental health is looked after. Being outside and close to nature is very important to me too and I love spending time in the woods or by the river, walking the dog with the children. I have worked in both state and private schools and further education and have previous experience of being a governor." Caro.

Nicky Pitts- co-opted governor



"I have been interested in primary education since I had a voluntary role in a school during my sixth form years. Some decades later I found a second career in working for a large group of nursery schools in London as Director of Admissions. It was a varied role and I loved it. Now that I am retired, my children are adults and I am living in Hampshire, I was excited by the opportunity to become involved with Cheriton Primary School." Nicky.

So, what do governors do?

Governors have four key functions in the leadership of the school:

1. Ensuring clarity of the vision, ethos and strategic direction.
2. Holding the leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that its money is well spent.
4. Making sure that stakeholders voices are heard.

Governors regularly review school policies and procedures. This term for example both the ***Behaviour and Discipline Policy*** and the ***Anti Bullying Policy*** have been under consideration. This involved looking at any related incidents in school to see how effective the policy has been in dealing with them and checking the latest DfE (Department for Education) Behaviour Guidance and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' Guidance to ensure that the policies are both compliant and using shared best practice.

Meeting with the School Council to gather our pupil views on behaviour, reward systems and sanctions was also an important part of the process. Pupils were asked how safe they feel in the school and whether there is any bullying. We were extremely impressed by the way that the children shared their thoughts openly and frankly. They identified what they consider works well and suggested how other aspects might be improved even further. Their feedback was that they were happy with the current system of rewards, and they felt that any misbehaviour or incident of unkindness was handled quickly and effectively by the staff.



Jenny Reeves and Liz Brett meeting with the school council to ask them about rewards and sanctions.



Liz Brett also met with teachers to evaluate current practice and discuss how it might be developed, capitalising on the positive impact that the Leader in Me programme has had throughout the school. The reviewed policy aims to ensure that there is consistency and cohesion in managing and acknowledging both the incredibly positive behaviour as well as any misbehaviours. Governors are not involved in the operational aspects of school leadership but ensure the strategic direction by monitoring the impact of policies and consulting with stakeholders where appropriate when they are reviewed.

These policies will be published in September 2023. Mr Goldsworthy will write to inform you of the publication and how to access the policies. If you have any comments that you would like governors to hear about either policy before this, please do speak to Mr Goldsworthy or Liz Brett or email the school.

An update on the School Improvement plan (SIP)

This has been a remarkably busy year of school development.

There has been very good progress in the three areas for improvements which were identified in the Ofsted Judgement in September. Mr Goldsworthy and the school staff have worked incredibly hard to make this progress within the short time- scales. The full governing body has monitored this progress and a smaller group of school governors and Mr Goldsworthy have met half termly to report back to the County. It should be noted that this work has been done by staff whilst still maintaining high standards of teaching and learning throughout the school.

Area for improvement	Progress this term
The development of the curriculum.	<p><i>Staff have used published schemes and refined them to meet the needs and interests of the children at Cheriton in RE, PE, PSHE, reading and science. Sequences of learning have been completed for all subjects and the vast majority have an intent statement and sequencing from Reception to Year 6. Knowledge organisers have been trialled to provide clarity for key knowledge, skills, and vocabulary to be taught. Both future and prior learning are included.</i></p> <p><i>The impact of the improved curriculum is evident in lessons.</i></p>
The development of	<p><i>Summary sheets have been created for some subjects to shape subject leaders thinking about their subject to identify both strengths and any areas which can be</i></p>

the role of Subject Leaders	<i>developed further. External reports recognise that subject leaders have better control of their subjects.</i>
Further Improvements in the recording of safeguarding concerns	<i>Leaders and teachers place a strong emphasis on child protection elements of safeguarding. The use of an on -line system recording of incidents and resultant actions has improved this year. Ruth Gent the lead DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Mr Goldsworthy work in partnership effectively and a new Safeguarding governor, Jenny Reeves, was appointed to monitor this area and she is undertaking training specific to this role. An annual safeguarding audit is underway to be submitted in September.</i>

School improvement has not been limited to these specific areas e.g. The introduction of Read Write Inc into classes 1 and 2 has also had a real impact as evidenced by the high phonics scores this term. Well done also to the children in Year 6 on their SATs scores! The outcomes in maths have been particularly pleasing throughout the school. The school newsletter will expand on this.

Staff Leavers

We would like to thank Mrs Craddock for her work supporting governors in ensuring that the financial performance of the school is well managed, and money well spent to provide the best opportunities for your children. We hope that she enjoys her well- earned retirement!

We wish Liz Taylor the very best in her new school and thank her for her hard work this year with all the children in Class 4 and her work on the development of the curriculum.

Our thanks also to Nikki Riden for her work as an LSA across the school but primarily in Class 4.

The end of the summer term is always packed with a variety of special events, some of which make lasting memories. The KS2 production last week, 'A Big Green Adventure' will undoubtedly have done just this. Well done to all the children who remembered fact-filled lines, sang so superbly and thoroughly entertained their audiences. A big thank you to Mrs Taylor, and Mrs Gent for directing and to all those who were involved in the creation of imaginative and colourful costumes, props and scenery.

We wish you and your children a very enjoyable summer break and we look forward to the start of an exciting new school year in September. We wish Year 6 pupils moving to secondary school in September the absolute best, and hope that they settle quickly into their new surroundings.

Regards

The Governing Body

Cheriton Governing Body

Liz Brett- (Co-opted Governor) Chair of Governors, Development and Training Governor, Class 3 link Gov
Andrew Goldsworthy- Headteacher

Nick Parmley- (Co-opted Governor) Chair of Resources Committee

Rachel Holmes- (Local Authority Governor) Chair of Learning Committee, HTPM (Headteacher Performance Management) Committee, Class 4 link

Jenny Reeves- (Parent Governor) Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Pupil Premium

Susan Henderson- (Co-opted Governor) EY Link Governor, HTPM Committee

Emily Mortimer- (Parent Governor) Class 2 Link Governor

Christopher Durrant- (Co-opted Governor) Well-Being Governor

Caro O'Brien- (Parent Governor)

Nicky Pitts- (Co-opted Governor)

Rhona Hatchley- Clerk