



# CHERITON GOVERNORS

Termly Newsletter from the Governors of Cheriton School

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## Parents Evening Feedback

Thank you to all the parents that took the time to help us with our survey at the last Parents Evening. Parents and governors chatted over a cup of tea whilst waiting to see their children’s teachers. We got some very positive feedback on the new format of the parents evening along with some very useful ideas and comments on our chosen topic of Communication.

## Quotes from Parents

*“Parentmail is great. I save it in my ‘Cheriton’ folder so I can double check “things”*

*“Invitations by email that can automatically be added to electronic calendar (MSN Outlook or Google”*

*“All (Staff) friendly and approachable— especially good to see in the morning playground if need to chat”*

*“Would like list of clubs start and finish dates before the end of previous term otherwise difficult to plan first week back, especially with work, other out of school clubs, play dates and other family commitments”*

## Responses on Communication from Parents

### Newsletter

Overall parents are happy with the format and content of the Newsletter finding it informative and fun to read. Most common comments for improvement were to include plenty of photos and to have children contributing more, maybe by writing articles or blogs.

### Parentmail

The issue of how often parents are reminded about an event was prevalent, whether it be by email, text etc. One parent had this very clever solution . “Invitations by email that can automatically be added to electronic calendar (MSN Outlook or Google)”.

Parents whose children go on the Bus or Taxi asked if notes on the whiteboard could also be sent by Parentmail.

### Website

Weekly Class spelling lists was high on the agenda for inclusion on the website along with communication through Parentmail being backed up by inclusion on a Class basis on the website.

### Teacher/ Headteacher accessibility

There was much praise for the Headteacher, Teachers and Staff of the school with all parents saying they were very friendly, helpful and approachable.

### Communication through school bags

Most parents expressed a wish to have communication through Parentmail although one parent did identify her broadband as being so bad that the backup of information in bags was very useful!

### Communications from Governors

More information about the governors, their aims and how to contact them was requested, with more communication welcomed.

### Any other comments

Possible football club at lunchtime. More competitive Sports Day. Formal email acknowledgement system, list of start and finish times on before and after school clubs form.

All your comments have now been passed onto Mr Goldsworthy . He will let you know how the school is going to deal with them in his weekly Newsletters.

## Communicating with Governors

Governors with children at the school can regularly be found on the school playground at pick up and drop off times. They are Simon Murfitt, Jacob Leadley, Tom Balme, Andrew Flett and Paul Debont. They will be happy to have a chat with you.

All governors can be contacted through the school office by emailing: [adminoffice@cheriton.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@cheriton.hants.sch.uk)

## WHO ARE THE CHERITON GOVERNORS ?



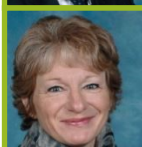
### **Chair of Governors - Clare Cholerton**

I have 3 children who all went to Cheriton. I became a governor as I wanted to give back something to the school as a thank you for giving my children such a great start in life.. The role of Chair can be very demanding at times with mountains of paperwork. To balance this I help in the school doing playground duties at lunchtimes. I see the results of all the hard work we put in—bright, articulate, enthusiastic children.



### **Vice Chair of Governors - Simon Murfitt**

I am a father of three with two currently at Cheriton. My passion for being a governor started in inter city London almost twenty years ago and I am always trying to use my past experiences to best support and improve our school. My particular interest is always helping to ensure child safety as it is a fundamental for any successful learning environment



### **Liz Brett - Chair of Learning Committee**

I have always been passionate about providing children with the best possible learning experience in their early school years and after a career at the front line of primary education I am delighted to be able to continue, this time with a school governor hat on! My two little grandchildren also keep me well in touch!



### **Tom Balme - Chair of Resources Committee**

I work in the building industry as a Building Surveyor for Faithful + Gould and have lived in the village for five years in my own ongoing building project. I have three young children, two of which are currently at Cheriton Primary School. In my spare time I do as much sailing, skiing and running as possible. If only there was more spare time!



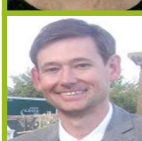
### **Andrew Flett—Parent Governor**

I live in the village and am a Parent governor with 2 boys in the school. I really want the best possible education and environment for them and all the children at Cheriton. As a governor, I have the opportunity to help ensure they get that and to understand and influence the challenges the school faces



### **Fran Lawrence—Co-opted Governor**

Both my children went through Cheriton School and were very happy during their time there. I decided to get involved again as a governor because I think we are really lucky to have such a lovely school in our midst which is an integral part of village life. I enjoy keeping in touch with education and getting to know the children at the school and watching new generations passing through.



### **Jacob Leadley—Parent Governor**

I have a daughter at the school at present who will be joined by her younger brother and sister in the coming years. I am a member of the resources committee and have recently taken on specific responsibility for Special Education Needs (SEN). I am both the Director of my own business and a Winemaker at a local winery; these roles were preceded by 10 years in the financial services. With my family invested in the school for many years to come I felt that volunteering as a parent governor was a great way to have a positive impact on the school and give something back to the community.



### **Paul Debont—Co-opted Governor**

As a teacher myself (admittedly in a different area of education) I appreciate the complexity of running a happy and successful school. This does not happen by chance but must be worked towards with the constant goal of reviewing and improving the current provision. Being a governor is a role which although quite taxing at times, does allow me to contribute (in my own small way) to the school community which I and my family are a part of.



### **Rev Graham Bowkett—Associate Governor**

I am the Rector of Cheriton and the surrounding villages, where the majority of the children coming into the school live. I moved to Cheriton in 2012 and have been coming into the school to take assembly and taking services in St Michael's the parish church since then. Cheriton Primary is an excellent school and it has been a pleasure to support it in the community and as an associate Governor.



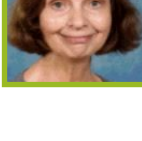
### **Andrew Goldsworthy—Headteacher**

For the Headteacher, being a full member of the Governing Body is actually optional; it would be possible for me to be an associate member and forgo any voting rights on decisions made at meetings. Like every Headteacher I know of, I am a full member of the Governing Body. I attend both the Learning and Resources Committee meetings as well as those of the full Governing Body.



### **Shan Dimmer—Staff Governor**

I am elected by the Staff to represent their interests on the Governing Body.



## What does Link Governor with responsibility for English do?

*As the Link Governor I visit the school at least twice in the school year and during these visits have the opportunity to meet with Mr. Goldsworthy and Miss Daffey, the subject manager for English, to discuss the management of English and the strengths and areas for development in this subject. I am able to observe the children learning, look at a range of work in books and on wall displays and talk with children about their learning experiences in speaking and listening, reading and writing.*

*Recently I undertook a 'Learning Walk' with Miss Daffey, where the focus was on 'phonics' and I observed some very interactive and lively sessions with Reception and Year 1 pupils. It was a very helpful morning, which gave an insight into how phonics teaching is being delivered, as well as an opportunity to see KS1 children learning in different areas of the school. The active involvement of children in their learning was very evident, as were very positive relationships between staff and children.*

*The visit helps inform me as to how the school is working to develop this particular focus of the school leadership's overall drive for improvement, and enables me to report evidence to the Learning Committee and Full Governing Body.*

*It is a privilege to be able to see 'learning in action' during my visits and I am grateful to all the staff involved for their time and co-operation.*

*Liz Brett*

## What the Governing Body Does

The Governing Body's main tasks are to: set the aims and objectives of the school, support and challenge the school's leadership, ensure that pupils receive high quality education, oversee all financial matters relating to the school, plan for future development and improvement.

Governors are responsible for appointing the Headteacher and also supporting them in their leadership role. Although they do not manage the school, they do help to set the strategic direction the school will take, assist in drawing up policies, objectives, targets and monitoring of the school's finances.

Governors are volunteers who receive no pay for their role.