



SHERSTON C O F E
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Learning,
Caring &
Achieving
Together*

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To all the staff, parents, and carers,

With the end of the academic year upon us, it is a good moment to reflect on the school's progress and the work of the Governing Body this year.

It has once again been a year full of achievements and growth, and I would like to begin by acknowledging the exceptional leadership of Mr. Towers. His continued energy, vision, and commitment have been instrumental in driving the school forward while building on its strong foundation.

We have seen exciting developments across the curriculum and beyond, with numerous successes to celebrate. Our staff, pupils, parents and wider school community have all played a vital role in these accomplishments. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so positively throughout the year.

In particular, I would like to express our deepest thanks to the staff team. Their dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to the children's learning and wellbeing are at the heart of everything the school has achieved this year.

As governors, our role is to support and challenge the school to ensure high standards and continual improvement. In this report, we outline key areas of focus from the year and share some important highlights and data.

On behalf of all the governors, I wish you and your families a very happy and restful summer holiday.

Kind regards,



Belinda Robinson

Chair of Governors



PRIORITIES FOR THE GOVERNING BODY 2024/25

As governors, we structure our work around a set of clear strategic priorities, aligned with both the school's development plan and our statutory responsibilities. The following sections outline the key areas we have focused on throughout the year, the progress made, and the ways in which we have supported and challenged the school leadership to secure the best outcomes for all pupils.

1. FUTURE STABILITY OF THE SCHOOL

Ensuring the long-term stability of the school remains one of the Governing Body's most important responsibilities. This year, we have worked closely with Mr. Towers and the leadership team to monitor pupil numbers, manage the budget effectively, and make strategic decisions that will help sustain high-quality education in the years ahead. These have included recruitment initiatives and the launch of the wraparound provision this year which continues to thrive.

Our aim is to ensure that Sherston remains an attractive, well-resourced, and high-performing school at the heart of its community.

We are therefore pleased to report that, while many rural schools across the country, particularly small village primaries, are facing falling rolls and being forced to reduce class numbers, **Sherston is bucking the trend with pupil numbers continuing to grow**. This is a testament to the school's strong reputation, high standards, and welcoming community, and we are proud that Sherston remains a school of choice for local families and further afield.

Maintaining financial security is always a balancing act in schools so would like to extend our gratitude to the leadership team and Finance Committee for the very effective budget management.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to the Friends of Sherston School (FSS), whose tireless fundraising efforts have once again made a remarkable difference to the opportunities we can offer our children. Their support this year has helped to fund school trips, workshops, themed days, classroom and outdoor improvements, as well as vital curriculum and learning resources.

We are extremely fortunate to have such an active and generous parent community. The contributions of the FSS go well beyond what is typically seen in schools, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who has volunteered time, donated, or participated in events to make this possible. **PLEASE NOTE: The FSS cannot continue to contribute in this way without more help, so please support them in any way you can. Your assistance truly helps set Sherston School apart and makes a significant difference for the children.**

2. QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Providing a high-quality, ambitious, and inclusive education for every child continues to be a central focus. This year, governors have monitored curriculum developments across all phases and ensured that the School Development Plan targets are met.

The introduction of new schemes in areas such as phonics, spelling, and writing has been closely tracked. Governors also review assessment data, support the analysis of pupil progress (including for disadvantaged and SEND pupils), and celebrate areas of strong performance across subjects.

In a recent external assessment from the Local Authority, the school was praised for its ‘Teaching and Learning’ across the board. Their report summarised:

‘Learning behaviour around school is of a high standard. Leaders have a clear direction of travel towards further improvement. The environment is vibrant and conducive to learning. Children with SEND have been clearly and accurately identified and extra support is in place for those who need it. Keep up the great work!’

We are pleased to report that once again, Sherston has show strong performance data. SATS highlights this year include:

- 100% Year 6 SATS Maths pass rate
- 64 % Year 6 SATS achieving above the expected standard in Reading
- 59 % Year 6 SATS achieving above the expected standard in Maths

These results reflect the dedication of the teaching team and the positive attitude of the pupils.

PERFORMANCE DATA – JULY 25

Y6 End of KS2	Percentage of children achieving the expected standard.		Percentage of children achieving above the expected standard (Greater Depth)	
	School	National (2024)	School	National (2024)
Reading	95%	73%	64%	36%
Writing	73%	72%	18%	13%
Maths	100%	74%	59%	24%
Combined R, Wr & M.	73%	61%	14%	8%

Y2 End of KS1	Percentage of children achieving the expected standard.		Percentage of children achieving above the expected standard (Greater Depth)	
	School	National	School	National
Reading	85%	68%	31%	18.8%
Writing	69%	60%	15%	8.2%
Maths	85%	70%	23%	16.4%

EYFS	Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the EYFS	
	School	National
Good Level of Development (GLD)	86%	68%

3. BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

Sherston continues to uphold a calm and respectful atmosphere where pupils feel safe and motivated to learn. The Governing Body regularly reviews behaviour data and engages with pupil voice to understand how children feel about their school environment.

The governor review behaviour policies and have been tracking new behaviour management initiatives which have seen a significant decrease in behaviour related incidents at the school during this year.

One of the school's distinctive qualities is its emphasis on calm, order, and peace — not only in physical spaces, but in relationships, routines, and expectations.

As governors, we support this vision by monitoring the learning environment, discussing pupil and staff wellbeing, and ensuring the school values are embedded into decision-making. This ethos has a visible impact on children's focus, behaviour, and sense of belonging. It also contributes to a workplace culture that staff describe as a very positive place to work.

Feedback from the recent parent questionnaire also reflected high confidence in the school's behaviour management approach.

99% of parents agreed that their children were happy at this school (0% disagreed)

98% of parents agreed that their children felt safe at this school (0% disagreed)

4. STRONG SAFEGUARDING CULTURE

The safety and wellbeing of all children is of paramount importance. Our Safeguarding Link Governor meets regularly with school leaders to review safeguarding practices, monitor compliance, and ensure that policies are fully up to date.

This year, the school successfully completed an external safeguarding audit which confirmed that robust systems are in place. Staff and Governors have undertaken regular training, and the Single Central Record is rigorously maintained. Governors also review behaviour logs, attendance data, and pupil voice to ensure a strong and transparent safeguarding culture.

5. OFSTED INSPECTION

With the next Ofsted inspection imminent, the Governing Body has focused on ensuring that all areas of the Ofsted framework are understood and clearly evidenced.

We have supported the leadership team in preparing for inspection by reviewing data, policies, and strategic documentation and strengthening our own understanding of Ofsted expectations through training.

6. STATUTORY COMPLIANCE

Governors have a legal duty to ensure that the school meets all statutory obligations — from safeguarding and SEND to Health and Safety, curriculum content, governance, and financial reporting.

Throughout the year, we have conducted regular checks, participated in audits, and worked closely with the school to maintain full compliance. We are pleased to report that all required statutory documentation and procedures are in place and that the school continues to meet all regulatory requirements confidently and consistently.

We were recently proud to get the highest score in the county for the LA Health and Safety audit thanks to all the work that the school and our Health and Safety Link Governor, Ben Warnes, have been putting into this area.

7. SUSTAINABILITY

This year, we have continued to work with Sustainable Sherston to explore eco-initiatives including toward solar panel funding, recycling schemes and the launch of the new gardening club. We are committed to building an environmentally responsible school community and would like to thank Sustainable Sherston for supporting us with this.

GOVERNOR TEAM NEWS

We have welcomed new governors this academic year and have a full team now in place with the necessary mix of skills. A warm welcome to new governors, Ben Parkyn, Neil Carpenter, Camille Sowersby, Heather Martin and Anna Glassborow (as Staff Governor). Sincere thanks to all our governors for volunteering their time to support the school. Their contributions are hugely valuable in ensuring robust and supportive governance.

A full list of governors can be found on our website, along with more information about our role and who does what.