



SHERSTON C O F E
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning,
Caring &
Achieving
Together

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To all the staff, parents, and carers,

As we reach the end of another successful year, it is a good time to reflect on the school's accomplishments and the key actions of the Governing Body throughout this academic year.

It has been an extremely full and successful year with so many achievements to celebrate. I would like to start by congratulating Mr Towers as he concludes his first year as head here. I am sure you will all agree, he has done a wonderful job. He has come in with energy and dedication, developing on the school's strengths whilst also bringing fresh ideas. He has managed this change incredibly efficiently and I would like to extend a huge thanks to the staff, parents and children for welcoming him and supporting him throughout this transition.

There has been a lot to learn and, having barely got his feet under the desk, it was time for the SIAMs inspection. As you will have seen, the school passed with flying colours. This year has also seen our educational provision continue to flourish, with wider opportunities for our students enhanced. You will see from the attached report, we have achieved outstanding results including a 100% pass rate in Maths SATs and in YR2 Phonics. I would like to extend my thanks and congratulations to the staff for their energy and commitment to delivering the best possible curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Additionally, a big thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported the school, making these achievements possible.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome everyone back next term. There is much to look forward to, including the launch of the wraparound care provision. In the meantime, we leave you with the Governors Report which summarises our key areas of work and results.

On behalf of all the governors, I would like to wish you all a very happy holiday.

Kind regards,



Belinda Robinson
Chair of Governors



PRIORITIES FOR THE GOVERNING BODY 2023/24

TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP

Supporting Mr Towers and facilitating a seamless transition of leadership has been a key focus for the governing body this year. This has gone extremely smoothly and we would like to congratulate Mr Towers on a very successful first year and to thank all the staff for supporting this process. As part of this transition, we have also restructured the Senior Leadership Team with the creation of a Deputy Head position. We would like to congratulate Mr Moran who was selected by the GB panel for this position.

SIAMS

Ensuring that the school's values are deeply embedded in the whole school culture continues to be a priority for the leadership team, staff, and governors. We continually revisit these values as part of our ongoing oversight.

The school this term underwent the SIAMs inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist School). This inspection happens every five years and evaluates the effectiveness of our distinctive Christian vision, the impact of our collective worship, and our Religious Education. Unsurprisingly, the school achieved the best result, satisfying all six lines of enquiry. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who was directly or indirectly involved. This outstanding result is a testament to the hard work of the staff and the positive, caring ethos that has been cultivated over many years. As governors, we are acutely aware of how authentic and unique this culture is and never take it for granted. Below is a snippet from the report, but you can find the complete report on the website.

Sherston is a warm, caring community where pupils and adults are treated well. The vision has a profound effect on the way that pupils and adults care for one another. Strong, supportive relationships are central to life. These are promoted very effectively by the use of a wide range of class 'talking partners' who change frequently. Consequently, pupils feel they are helped to learn by the care of their peers as well as their teachers. Heartfelt positive comments from other pupils are included on awards for individuals showing caring behaviour. In this way, pupils' feelings of self-worth and confidence are enhanced. Older children encourage younger ones during social times when all ages mix well together. They show empathy for new arrivals enabling them to gain friends and settle quickly. A high priority is placed on the mental health and wellbeing of all. A range of strategies are used to create a calming school environment highly valued by pupils. Staff form a stable and cohesive team, encouraged and supported by each other and by leaders.



CURRICULUM AND PERFORMANCE

Supporting and challenging the school to ensure the highest educational performance for its pupils remains a priority for Governors. We continue to collaborate with the school to ensure the priorities outlined in the school development plan are met.

This involves monitoring and benchmarking progress using a combination of internal and external sources of evidence. The school's aim is for all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, to reach their full potential across the curriculum.

This year has seen the new developments to the curriculum. A new spelling model has also been introduced in Y5 and Y6 to ensure they are being learnt rather than memorised for tests. This has already seen very positive results. Also a new phonics scheme trial is taking place in KS1.

This commitment is reflected in the end-of-year national data below, where the school **exceeds national averages at every level.**

Outstanding achievements this year include:

- **100% Year 2 Phonics pass rate**
- **100% Year 6 SATS Maths pass rate**
- **21% of KS1 exceeding the expected standard in Writing.**
- **52 % Y6 achieving above the expected standard in Reading and Maths**

These achievements are a credit to our outstanding teachers and teaching assistants, the children's positive attitude toward learning, and the excellent SENCO provision from Mrs. Kingston.



Performance Data July 2023

Y6 End of KS2	Percentage of children achieving the expected standard.		Percentage of children achieving above the expected standard (Greater Depth)	
	School	National	School	National
Reading	95%	73%	52%	28%
Writing	86%	72%	19%	13%
Maths	100%	73%	52%	24%
Combined R, Wr & M.	79%	59%	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	71%	68%	43%	18.8%
Writing	71%	60%	21%	8.2%
Maths	78%	70%	29%	16.4%

* There is no national comparison for KS1 as the Year 2 SATs tests were optional, so we have used data from 2023

Y1 Phonics check	Percentage of children achieving the expected standard in the Year 1 Phonics screening	
	School	National
Phonics	100%	81%

EYFS	Percentage of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the EYFS	
	School	National
Good Level of Development (GLD)	90%	68%



PLANNING EFFECTIVELY FOR FUTURE STABILITY

Securing long-term financial stability for the school is challenging, and this remains a key focus for the Governors. The Finance Committee has been working closely with Mr Towers and Mrs Mackrill to ensure that our limited funds are effectively supporting the School Development Plan.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Mrs. Mackrill for her very effective budget management, which has been crucial in stabilising the school's finances and securing its provision.

A huge THANK YOU also goes to the Friends of Sherston School (FSS), whose tireless fundraising efforts this year have significantly enhanced the school's offerings for the children. This includes funding for school trips, workshops, theme days, improvements to the classrooms and outdoor area, curriculum and learning resources, I Sing Pop, and school iPads.

We are incredibly fortunate to have the support of the FSS, whose contributions far exceed those of other schools. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible and supported the events.

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.

WRAP AROUND CARE

Decreasing birth numbers in rural areas of North Wiltshire is a key challenge for village primary schools as this leads to decreased funding. It is therefore imperative that we make Sherston as attractive to existing and new parents as possible. Recently we have seen an increasing demand for wraparound provision so the governing body decided that this needed to be a priority to support our families and boost recruitment.

The concept is one thing but getting this off the ground has involved some big operational hurdles so we would like to congratulate Mr Towers for finding a way. We would also like to thank Miss Linda and Mrs Ormiston who have offered to staff the club and make this a reality.

We very much look forward to seeing the launch of Fireflies in September.



MONITORING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

Behaviour management is a major strength of the school, with all staff actively fostering a calm, tolerant, and respectful environment. Children are consistently praised for their positive attitudes toward learning and their achievements. As governors we regularly visit the school and witness first hand the exemplary behaviour, reflecting the high expectations upheld by all staff.

We also use pupil voice, parent questionnaires and forums to assess attitudes. The recent parent questionnaire reflected the positive attitudes of parents and children to the school.

Parent Questionnaire March 2024 (58 Responses)

- 98% felt their child is happy at the school
- 97% felt that their child feels safe in the school
- 98% felt their child was well looked after at school
- 95% felt their child was well taught (3% don't know)
- 88% felt the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved (10% don't know)
- 97% felt the school was well lead and managed (3% don't know)
- 98% would recommend the school to another parent

WELLBEING

Staff and pupil wellbeing is always a focus for the Senior Leadership Team and governors. This has been particularly important given the change in leadership which can be unsettling for everyone. We are pleased to report that morale is very good in the school as evidenced by staff feedback in a recent questionnaire where **100% of staff who replied agreed that the school 'is an enjoyable place to work and feels a valued member of the team'**.

We have also seen the introduction of a number of supportive measures this year including training and allocating budget for an ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant). An ELSA is a trained, school based learning support assistant whose role is to support the emotional wellbeing of pupils.

Other measures have included Children's Mental Health Week, welfare days for staff and the head is now a Senior Mental Health Lead. The introduction of the School Council has also been an important outlet for pupil voice.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our Health and Safety Link Governor, Ben Warnes, has been working closely with Mr. Towers and Mrs. Mackrill to conduct a thorough Health and Safety audit. A comprehensive plan has been implemented to ensure all aspects are well managed and compliant. Last week, the school underwent an external Health and Safety inspection by the Local Authority. While we have not yet received the official report, the inspection went very well, and the inspectors were satisfied with our compliance. Well done to Ben and the staff team for their efforts in ensuring this success.

SAFEGUARDING

Our Safeguarding Governor, Becky Fisher, has been collaborating with the school to ensure all safeguarding measures are effective and compliant. This includes maintaining the central record, enhancing security (including online safety), and ensuring all statutory safeguarding procedures are in place. An external inspection by the Local Authority concluded that our safeguarding practices are robust, with clear procedures in evidence.

SUSTAINABILITY

Our Sustainability Link Governor is co-ordinating with Sustainable Sherston and the school to identify areas of improvement. Funding for solar panels is currently being explored by Sustainable Sherston. They are also exploring the possibility of running a gardening club for us. We would like to thank Sustainable Sherston for their support in this process.

TEAM NEWS

There have been a few changes this year with Adam Beaumont stepping down earlier in the year and also Becky Fisher will be leaving at the end of this term. Miss Linda is also handing over the 'staff governor' reins to Mrs Glassborow next year. We would like to thank them all for their huge contributions and welcome Mrs Glassborow back to the GB.

We are currently in the process of filling the two foundation governor roles and plan to have a full team in place ready to go next term. You can meet all the governors in the governors section of the website.