



GOVERNORS END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER JULY 2023

To all the staff, parents and carers,

As we fast approach the end of another successful year at Sherston CodE Primary school, it is a good time to summarise the work and progress of the school and the key actions of the Governing Body over the Academic year 2022-23.

It has been an extremely full and busy year where the education provision continues to flourish and wider opportunities have been enhanced with successful school trips, themed events including Anglo Saxon day, STEM week, RE week, coronation celebrations, sports day and competitions ...the list goes on. I would therefore like to start by thanking and congratulating the staff for all their energy and commitment to ensuring the best possible curriculum and extra curriculum provision. Also a big thank you to all the parents who have supported the school to make this possible.

As you are aware, one of the biggest priorities for the Governing Body this year has been securing the future of the school with the successful recruitment of a new Headteacher. To do this ensuring a smooth transition was essential and would not have been possible without Mr Moran stepping in to take on the Interim Head role. I am sure you will all agree, he has done a really fantastic job and the school has been thriving under his care. We would therefore like to thank him sincerely and also to Mrs Berry and Mrs Box for looking after Rowan so well in his absence.

Mr Towers is very much looking forward to starting in September and the handover process is already in progress with Mr Moran, the governors, LA and the staff supporting his induction.

Sadly this term does see the departure of Mrs Berry, Mrs Box and Mrs Hicks and we would like to take this opportunity to wish them every success in their new roles and thank them for their huge contribution to the school. We will also be saying goodbye to the current Years 6's and we would like to wish them all the very best for the next step in their educational journey.

We look forward to welcoming back everyone else next term for another successful academic year. In the meantime we leave you with a summary of the other key areas of work for the Governing Body this year.

Wishing everyone a very happy summer holidays.

Kind regards,

The Governors



PRIORITIES FOR THE GOVERNING BODY 2022/23

HEAD TEACHER RECRUITMENT

Following a very successful recruitment process, a new headteacher, Mr Towers, has been appointed and is due to start on 1st September. Handover and induction have been taking place this term.

CURRICULUM AND PERFORMANCE

Supporting and challenging the school to ensure the best educational performance of its pupils is always a key focus for the Governing Body and we continue to work with the school to ensure that the priorities outlined in the school development plan are met.

This involves monitoring and benchmarking progress by using a combination of internal and external sources of evidence. It is the aim of the school that 'all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils achieve highly across the curriculum' and this has been reflected in the end of year national tests where the school exceeds national levels at every level.

This is a credit to the outstanding teachers and teaching assistants, the children's attitude to learning and the excellent SENCO provision from Mrs Kingston.

Performance Data July 2023

| | SHERSTON | NATIONAL AVERAGE |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| EYFS – Good Level of Development | 75% | 65% |
| Phonics Pass | 92% | 75% |
| END OF KS1 | | |
| Meeting ARE or above in reading | 76% | 67% |
| Meeting ARE or above in writing | 69% | 58% |
| Meeting ARE or above in Maths | 76% | 68% |
| END OF KS2 | | |
| Meeting ARE or above in reading | 79% | 74% |
| Meeting ARE or above in writing | 84% | 69% |
| Meeting ARE or above in Maths | 84% | 71% |



PLANNING EFFECTIVELY FOR FUTURE STABILITY

Securing long term financial stability for the school in the current climate is challenging and this is an ongoing focus for the Governors. With reducing external funding, financial management becomes more critical and the Finance Committee have been working closely with Mr Moran and Mrs Mackrill to ensure that limited funds can support the School Development Plan.

We would like to thank Mrs Mackrill for her very thorough and effective budget management which has been crucial in stabilising the schools finances and securing its provision. We are pleased to report that the school's current financial situation is looking less precarious than it was a year ago. We would, however, like to stress that this is relative and things remain very challenging.

We would like to say a very big THANK YOU to the FSS whose tireless fundraising this year has once again hugely contributed towards the range of the school's offering to the children including **school trips, workshops and theme days, improving the outdoor area of the school, curriculum and Learning Resources, Young Voices, School I-pads.**

We are very lucky to have this FSS support and their contributions considerably exceed other schools. Thank you to everyone who has made this happen and supported the events. Please do continue to support in any way you can as it really does help set Sherston school apart and make a very real difference for the children.





EMBEDDING VISION, VALUES AND ETHOS

Ensuring that the school's values are embedded into the whole school culture continues to be a priority for the leadership, staff and governors continue to re-visit these values as part of their oversight.

Our Vision is for Sherston School to be a joyful school community

- where children are happy, curious and inspired
- that nurtures in our children the confidence and courage to make positive choices and the ambition to thrive
- in which everyone treats others with kindness and respect
- that provides an inclusive, friendly and safe environment in which every child can achieve

As a church school the Christian values are integral to the school and its relation with our community. Our Foundation Governors work closely with the school and church to support this.





MONITORING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

Behaviour management is a big strength of the school and school leaders actively promote a school environment which is calm, tolerant and respectful. Children are praised for their positive attitudes to learning as well as their achievement and the pupils behaviour remains consistently positive through high expectations from all staff. This was noted in LA inspection Report this term 'The behaviour remains impeccable'.

The Parent and Pupil Voice questionnaires that were carried also made for very reassuring reading showing an increasingly high level of satisfaction amongst parents.

Parent Questionnaire March 2023 (71 Responses)

- 97% felt their child is happy at the school (2% don't know or didn't answer, 1% disagreed)
- 99% felt that their Child feels safe in the school (1% don't know or didn't answer, 0% disagreed)
- 100% felt their child was well looked after at school
- 94% felt their child was well taught (6% don't know or didn't answer, 0% disagreed)
- 91% felt the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved (8% don't know or didn't answer, 1% disagreed)
- 99% felt the school was well lead and managed (1% don't know or didn't answer, 0% disagreed)
- 99% would recommend the school to another parent (1% don't know, 0% disagreed)



STAFF WELLBEING

Staff wellbeing is always a focus for the SLT and Governors. This has been particularly important given the change in leadership which can be unsettling. Morale is good in the school as evidenced by staff feedback. A detailed questionnaire has recently been carried out and the governors are currently assessing the output of this.

SAFEGUARDING

Our safeguarding governor has been working very closely with the school to ensure all safeguarding is effective and current to include central record, security (including on-line) and that all safeguarding statutory procedures are in place. The recent LA external inspection report was satisfied that the 'Safeguarding appears to be robust with clear procedures seen '

SUSTAINABILITY

Our Sustainability Link Governor is co-ordinating with Sustainable Sherston and the school to identify areas of improvement. Funding is currently being explored. We would like to thank Sustainable Sherston for their support in this process.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our Health and Safety Link Governor has been working closely with Mr Moran to carry out a thorough H&S audit. This has involved internal inspections which have found everything to be well managed and compliant. External LA inspections have also been very satisfied that everything is in place and actions from the previous audit have been actioned.

TEAM NEWS

There have also been some changes within the Governing body this term. Sadly for the Governing Body but good news for the school, Jess Greatrex-Smith is moving into a Teaching Assistant role so has had to step down as a Parent Governor. Bertie Archer has moved away so has also stepped down as our LA Governor. We would like to say a big thank you to Bertie and Jess for all their contributions to the Governing Body.

We are however pleased to welcome Nicola Atwell as our new LA Governor and Dominic Koole as a Co-Opted Governor who have both joined the board this term. You can meet all the governors in the governors section of the website.