

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER SPRING TERM

Sherborne St. John Church of England Primary School

Mar. 2024

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Governor newsletter



Words from the Chair of Governors.....a pat on the back for everyone involved at school

The Governors hope you have all seen the Basingstoke Gazette from 14 January, the edition that published the Basingstoke Primary School League Table, and you noticed that SSJ are top of the table on the basis of 2023 SATs results. What an achievement and huge congratulations to Sarah Jolliffe and the whole team. It is well deserved public recognition for all their hard work; and crucially, hard work over an extended period of time. I can remember how quickly and effectively the school put together a response to the extraordinary impacts of the Pandemic – going well above and beyond to maintain interactive teaching; these 2023 results are a testament to the commitment and innovation of the whole team. We are so lucky to have them. My other reflection in early 2024 is to thank the School Association and Parents for organising, and participating in, two brilliant events over the last couple of months – the Christmas Fayre and the Association Quiz - great fun events and wonderful examples of the school community coming together.

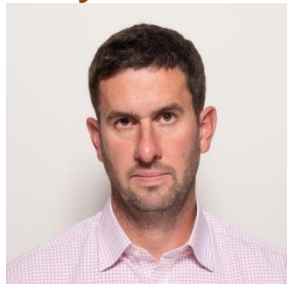
Spring report from our Ethos Committee Governors

Trust, Truth and Forgiveness. These are the values which underpin our Christian ethos and shape and influence everything that happens across the school and throughout the day. The Ethos Committee includes a wide range of representatives from parents, staff and members of our local community. We are tasked with ensuring that our ethos and values have a positive impact on everyone who is part of our school community. Our aim is to help to provide an environment in which everyone is valued and encouraged to reach their full potential, and all have the opportunity to think about what the Christian Faith might mean for them. We recently welcomed Richard Wharton (Diocesan Education Adviser) to facilitate a session thinking about “How does the school’s theologically rooted Christian vision enable pupils and adults to flourish?” which gave us much to think about and discuss as we seek to ensure our vision and values are as clearly communicated as they could be. More recently we were delighted to invite the Bishop of Basingstoke, David Williams, to lead Collective Worship for the whole school which was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and children alike. Looking ahead our wonderful school councillors are working with Miss Jolliffe and Rev Stewart to develop and enhance our School Prayer – watch this space!

School Values: Trust, Forgiveness, Truth

School Vision: Inspire, Enjoy, Achieve

Meet your new Parent Governor



Hi, my name is Sam Fenton and I am a very pleased to have been elected to join the board of governors at Sherborne St John Primary School. I have two children, Freddie, who is currently in year 2, and Ruby who hopes to join the school in Year R from September.

We have lived in the village for the last six years. Originally from Tottenham in London, I moved to Hampshire to go to university and have been here ever since. I work as a Project Manager and have twelve years' experience running complex engineering and construction projects.

I am passionate about helping children at SSJ school to get the best start to their education possible. I have a particular interest in STEM subjects, as this area helped me find focus in my own education and has led me to a fulfilling career in the engineering sector, this is something that I hope to advocate at the school.

In my down time I enjoy cycling, camping and gardening. As a family we all enjoy spending a lot of time outdoors, which I also consider an important aspect of early education. I look forward to working with the team to help continue their excellent work at the school.

Coming soon ...

As usual at this time in the academic year we are preparing surveys for the children, Parents, Staff and Governors to complete in the next few weeks. The surveys have been carried out for a number of years under the guidance provided by OFSTED. The surveys give a 'snapshot' view of the various groups mentioned. All the results are collated and fully discussed by the Governors. When the children have completed their surveys their results will be reported back by their teachers. Please do watch out for your own survey and spend a few minutes completing it on line if possible. Your opinions are helpful in deciding if we are fulfilling our goals and for setting new targets in the future. Thank you in advance for your replies.

Did you know?

Every year the Year 6 Leavers are invited to attend a special service in Winchester Cathedral during the Summer term. This year the event will be held on 19th June for our school and many other Church of England schools across Hampshire. The day involves participation in exploring the Cathedral and in celebrating the children and schools throughout the County. We are very much looking forward to Rev. Stewart joining in the celebration this year.

Taking your feedback seriously

We love hearing about all the great things you tell us about our school. However, the constructive feedback and suggestions you provide are also very important to us. Please do contact the Headteacher or Class teacher if you have a comment to make.