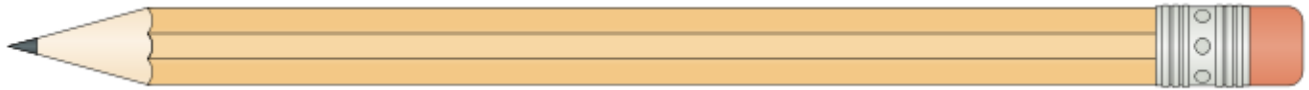


# GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM

Sherborne St. John Church of England Primary School

Nov. 2024

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Governor newsletter



As we progress through this very busy term, towards Christmas and all the events that the Children are involved in, we'd like to report on a number of events which may be of interest to everyone in our school community.

## Welcome to our Acting Headteacher



We hope that everyone will by now have had the opportunity to meet our Acting Headteacher, Mrs Rennison, who is standing in for Miss Jolliffe during her Maternity Leave. Mrs Rennison has said: *"During my 20 years in education, I've worked in a number of different schools, all in the Basingstoke area, and have experience of teaching all year groups from YR to Y6. As Deputy Heads in small schools do, I've continued to teach during my time here, as well as being SENCo for the last 5 years. I've been involved in two Ofsted inspections and a SIAMs inspection, all of which have been successful snapshots of life at our school. I am passionate about learning and the opportunities that education brings to our children, and am focussed on ensuring high quality teaching that meets the needs of every learner. For me also, education is not just about reading, writing and maths; I firmly believe that it's just as important to help children grow in confidence, be prepared to try something new, build resilience and gain life skills to help prepare them for the ever-changing world that we live in. The Sherborne St John vision and values of Trust, Truth and Forgiveness really resonate with me and I can't wait to see how well they guide the Christian ethos of the school."*

*I am very lucky for the last two years to have had the chance to teach music across the school, as music is a passion of mine, and in particular, singing. I run a choir here at St Martin's which currently has 50 members, quite a high percentage of our 104 children! I'm also very involved with a group called BPSM - Basingstoke Primary Schools Music, who organise a concert once a year at the Anvil Theatre, involving 500 children as a massed choir and orchestra, as well as narrators, dancers and a chamber choir. For me personally, music is such an important part of education, alongside the other creative arts, as it can help improve wellbeing, build confidence and bring joy to us all. I am hoping that the children of Sherborne love to sing as much as I do."*

**School Vision: Inspire, Enjoy, Achieve**



## Welcome to our new Governor

"Hello, my name is Sue Sutton.

I worked in the airlines industry for 25 years (10 yrs. in the Middle East). After leaving, I trained to become a Teacher in a special needs school but budget cuts saw my position become redundant. I joined The Trident Trust (an educational charity) as Special Needs Manager, then became County Manager and Regional Director.

After six years I joined a large secondary school as their Head of Careers, responsible for implementing a careers curriculum from Years 7-13. I was part of the Sixth Form Team and a sixth form Tutor.

I retired from full time teaching in 2016 and worked for a further four years as a one to one Careers Adviser in another large secondary school.

My husband and I moved to SSJ in July 2023 to be closer to our family. We have a son and a daughter and two grandchildren.

I feel very privileged to be a Governor in such a welcoming, successful and happy school."

## Sporting Activities at Sherborne St John

We consider ourselves very fortunate at school to have the sporting enthusiasm of Mrs Rolmanis. As the Sports Leader she undertakes planning, organising and driving our Sporting activities throughout the year. The children are given many opportunities throughout their years at School to participate in numerous sporting activities - read on to find out more...

### Clubs:

We offer the following clubs each week:

Judo, dance, gymnastics - these are open to anyone

Tag rugby club - children selected to train for different events during the year

Girls football club - children selected and school funded. It is called the Shooting Stars - inspired by Disney and it uses Disney storytelling to inspire girls to get physically active



### Tag Rugby

The tag rugby team participate in a league with 4 other schools. We play 4 times during the year and the winner is celebrated in the festival at the end of the year. A 'Sparkling festival' at the end of year, where all league teams from the local areas meet for a whole day event is a highlight of the year.

Girls tag rugby team - they train with the main team and will participate in a girls tag rugby festival in May - organised by Mrs Rolmanis.

### Friendlies

We have already organised a girls' football friendly event and a tag rugby friendly event. We are hoping to hold more of these during the year.



### Competitions

Competitions that we are hoping to participate in during the year:

KS1: gymnastics, football festival, football competition, quad kids, scatterball

KS2: sports hall athletics, cross country, gymnastics, quad kids

Children also have the chance to use the tennis courts at the Chute and Class 4 have been swimming.

Year 5s will be going to May's Bounty in the Spring term to be taught squash by a professional coach and use the squash courts there. (Year 6 children went last year and loved it!)

We have 4 Year 6 children who have trained to be Young leaders and will be leading different activities at lunchtimes.

**School Values: Trust, Forgiveness, Truth**

## School Values: Trust, Forgiveness, Truth



### Fund Raising, the School Association and how you can help...

There is never a term at school when the School Association is not involved with new fund raising, generating ideas for the coming term(s) and generally trying to provide funds for additional opportunities for the children at school. There have been some changes in the composition of the Association 'Committee' this year, supported as always by the Head Teacher and Mrs Johnston representing the staff at school. They work hard on behalf of the school and particularly the children, and we would ask that you give them your full support where you can. They have organised a recent, and very enjoyable, quiz night and also arranged for the Bags2School collections. Coming in 2025 another Parent Quiz is planned, a School disco for the children and the Fun Run in April to name a few. They would love to hear from you if you can support in any way, have some ideas for new events or you just want to help for one event.

There are other areas where you may be able to help our School Community, even if you are not directly involved in the Association. You may not be aware of some of the financial challenges which the School is currently facing; some may be a surprise to you...

- For domestic re cycling collections we simply put our recycling bins out for collection, not so simple for school; we have our waste re cycling 'weighed' and we are then charged accordingly. So the more we re cycle the more we pay! Imagine the cost of recycling bulky stationery catalogues no longer in use - these are often taken 'home' by staff or volunteers to dispose of without costing the school money! One of the reasons we ask your children to take their waste from packed lunches home for re cycling.
- Our stationery costs are another item where we are trying to save. Year 5 and 6 children provide their own pens, pencils, pencil cases and other small stationery items; this greatly helps reduce the costs.
- Another expense, especially in the winter months is the supply of tissues, these are required across all classes and break out rooms. If you can provide small packs of tissues for your child that would be very helpful. Or you may wish to send into school some of the small boxes of tissues for all to use.
- As with every household in the country, utility bills are a constant issue and frequent increases are an additional pressure on our tight budget. Electricity daily standing charges, which we cannot mitigate, have increased significantly again and there is now a threat from increased water charges. A cold Winter can cause major increases in our gas bills which again cannot be compromised or reduced as the school needs to be heated. With an 'old', not well insulated building generally we are at the mercy of the utility companies in all these areas.
- Finally, we are in the hands of the local authority for many items including the provision of school dinners (obviously with no kitchen on the premises to prepare school dinners we have to rely on outside sources); this comes at a cost which we often cannot control and there are big changes proposed by Hampshire for 2025, the cost of which we have little or no control over.

## School Vision: Inspire, Enjoy, Achieve

### Christmas Events

The children were so excited by the challenges of learning a new script for the Nativity last week - Classes One and Two were involved in this production. I'm sure you will agree they all performed brilliantly. Class Three sang beautifully rehearsed carols at the Christmas Fair, and also sang at The Grange in the Village. There has been a 'muddy' walk to the Vyne for Class 3 and the whole school attendance at the Anvil Pantomime, which was such fun, 'oh yes it was!' The Christingle 'oranges' were made and the annual Christingle service at St Andrews was held on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

From all the Governors we wish you and your families a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

### Your Governors for 2024- 2025 are:



Chair	Woody Ruane
Deputy Chair	Mrs L Harding
Acting Head	Mrs M Rennison
	Rev. S. Deering
	Mrs L Johnston
	Mrs D Pound
	Mrs P Scott
	Miss J Grand
	Mrs A McLaughlin
	Mr C Woodward
	Mrs S Sutton
	Mr S Fenton

