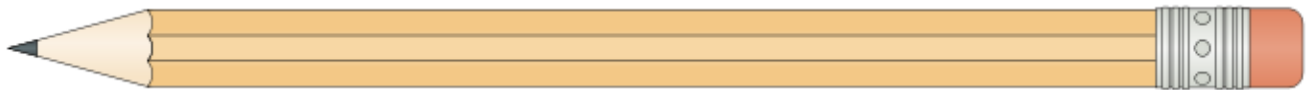


GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM

Sherborne St. John Church of England Primary School

Nov. 2023

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Governor newsletter



A message from the Chair of Governors



I recently managed to persuade two of my teenage children to put their phones down and come to help clear up some leaves at the school. It was an opportunity for them to reminisce and for all of us to reflect on the enormously happy time that they spent at the school. Dealing with the result of storm Ciaran was also a chance for me to reflect on the stiffer headwinds that the school has been facing recently. The longer term impacts of the COVID pandemic on our children has been exacerbated by broader funding challenges. This has placed increasing strain on the school. I know that I speak for the whole of the Governing Board in expressing our thanks and support for Sarah Jolliffe and all her staff as they meet and overcome these challenges. They are doing a fantastic job for our children. It is a feature of our school how we work as one community and I would also like to thank Parents, Governors and other members of our community for their help and support. I am very confident that we will overcome challenges by continuing to support each other and by working collaboratively to achieve our vision for the school. As a Governing Board we will be looking for more opportunities to bring the community together so the school continues to go from strength to strength.



Autumn report from our Curriculum Committee Governors

An important aspect of school life is the Curriculum, how it is put together, delivered and monitored. It is one of the roles of the Curriculum Committee to scrutinise this, and to ensure that the Curriculum is delivering an inspirational and interesting syllabus. There are six members on our committee, three teaching staff Governors, two parent Governors and one Co-opted Governor so there is a broad range of views and expertise. Another important aspect is the monitoring of targets and the scrutiny of results. Throughout the year we receive updates on the progress of the children and it is our job to check that progress is in line with expectations and that interventions are put in place to ensure that any child not making expected progress is receiving the necessary help. Being a Governor on the Curriculum Committee is both interesting and rewarding and gives a wonderful overview of how the school puts together and teaches a broad and balanced Curriculum to pupils of all abilities.



School Vision: Inspire, Enjoy, Achieve

School Values: Trust, Forgiveness, Truth

Welcome to our new Governor

Hello!

My name is Stewart Deering and I'm the new Vicar of the Parish of Sherbornes with Pamber. Originally from Northern Ireland, I've lived in Sheffield since 2005 before making the move south over the summer along with my wife Becky and our three children, Henry (5), Toby (4) and Annie (1). We are really enjoying getting settled into the local community and our boys are loving their new school in SSJ. I am delighted to be joining the Governing Board as a Foundation Governor, with a focus on ensuring that the distinctively Christian ethos and values that underpin the school continue to have a positive impact on all students, parents and staff. Having previously worked as a teacher in a secondary school, I am passionate about education and I'm really looking forward to contributing to the life of the school and growing the already strong links with St Andrew's Church. I can honestly say that the school Harvest Service was one of the main highlights of the first couple of months in my new role! Please do get in touch with me or chat to me at the school gate.

News from the School Association

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 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 Miss Jolliffe and Mrs Johnston representing the staff at school. The Association always have an eye on generating more funds for special projects and specific events in the year, for example, movie mob, Pantomime visit, refreshing outdoor areas and even funding new Phonics books. 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.

Looking forward to Christmas Events

The children are hopefully excited by the challenges of learning a new script for the Nativity - Classes One and Two are involved in this production. Class Three will be singing beautifully rehearsed carols at the Christmas Fair, make sure you do not miss this, and Class Four will be 'manning' and supporting the stalls at the Fair to ensure everyone has a great time! Watch out for more details and the now 'traditional' Raffle Tickets arriving in book bags - there are some great prizes this year.

New 'rewards' system implemented for 'Saints'

After a great deal of discussion and deliberation the staff, with Miss Jolliffe, have implemented a new rewards system to run from this half term. The school has three 'houses', Brocas, Chute and Sandys which traditionally were only 'used' at Sports Day. Every child, from entering school on Day 1, is assigned to a house (siblings are usually in the same house). There is a system in place which allows every individual to 'earn' a Saint, this is reflected on their own record (for personal achievement) and also collectively for the house to which they are assigned. Saints can be awarded for any number of behaviours, achievements, attitudes or simply showing the school values in a positive light. It is hoped this new personal and collective system will recognise both individual and 'team' efforts in school.

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.