

**Welcome to the Summer Term edition of The Governors' News! We aim to keep you regularly updated on the work of the Governing Board.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

In response to the school's recent questionnaire to parents, we hope to use our newsletter as a way to address some of the points raised and provide parents with a better insight into the work and the role of the school Governors.

We have welcomed two new co-opted Governors to the team - Mr Barry von Clemens and Mr Steve Gibbons - who have responsibility for Modern Foreign Languages, RE and ICT & Computing respectively. Mrs Emma Crosfield was re-elected as a Parent Governor and we also welcome new Parent Governor Mrs Hayley Mitchell to the Board.

As we start the last term of the 2017/2018 academic year, we are confident in the Senior Leadership Team and the strategies that have been put in place for improving pupils' attendance and attainment throughout the school, whilst maintaining the warm family atmosphere that is Wyke.

## *School Development Plan*

Governors were involved in working on the new School Development Plan with the Senior Leadership Team. We continue to monitor progress against the Plan at designated monthly meetings.

## **Introducing...**

**Mrs Elizabeth Ingham**

**Co-opted Governor**



Mrs Elizabeth Ingham has been a Co-opted Governor at Wyke since 2011. She has responsibility for English, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Music. She has a particular interest in SEND having supported children at Gillingham Secondary School for 11 years. She is a qualified Special Needs teacher and is training to assess children for additional needs.

She regularly meets with Miss Murphy (the English Co-ordinator) and Mrs Shanks (the SENDCo) to gain a strategic overview of pupil progress which she then reports on to the main Governing Board. She is the Governors' representative to the Parent Forum.

When not being a Governor, you may have seen her at Wyke School Bazaar face-painting, or heard her playing the tenor horn in Top Brass and Wind Band!

## *Governor Visits*

As Governors, we regularly visit the school to enable us to develop and maintain our strong links. We find school visits enormously rewarding and a useful way of helping us to fulfil our strategic role, as well as providing us with the opportunity to strengthen the partnership by really getting to know the school, the staff and most importantly the children, whose best interest is everyone's priority. Visits take place throughout the year and all Governors are involved; our visits are pre-arranged and have a clear focus or objective. They provide us with the opportunity to meet and speak with staff and pupils about the curriculum and progress, as well as allowing us to see how the school is implementing its policies and targets from the School Development Plan. This term, visits are scheduled for Early Years, Health and Safety, English and an additional Maths visit.

Two Governors met with Miss Knott in the Autumn term to discuss the school's priorities for Maths in the School Development Plan and the aims for the coming year. In the Spring term a learning walk took place and we spoke with several children from each class. These children completed a questionnaire which gave us an insight into how they perceived Maths and the level of challenge provided within lessons. In the second visit we looked at how the priorities the school had identified had been implemented. At the end of the Summer Term we will meet Miss Knott again and discuss the impact of those priorities and future actions for the subject.

After each visit, Governors write a report sharing what they have learnt from their visit with staff and the whole of the Governing Board. This enables us all to ask any questions that have been identified by the visit, reflect on the impact any changes are having and enable us to form our action plan for future visits.

## *Getting to Know Classes*

Each term, we listen with interest to class presentations from two teachers. These sessions are very helpful as they help to bring the class data to life.

## *Budget*

A new SEND funding formula has recently been implemented in Dorset affecting the amount of money the school has to spend. We discussed the impact on the current budget and future forecasted budgets. At each Board meeting the budget is discussed in detail to ensure the school's finances are being deployed correctly and effectively.