



# SHEERHATCH GOVERNOR NEWS

Willington Road  
Cople  
Bedford  
MK44 3TH

Church Road  
Willington  
Bedford  
MK44 3QD

Tel: 01234 838827

[office@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk](mailto:office@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk)  
[www.sheerhatchprimary.org.uk](http://www.sheerhatchprimary.org.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were pleased to reopen the school again to all pupils on the 8<sup>th</sup> March! A huge thank you to all the parents and carers for all the hard work in juggling home-learning with day jobs, siblings, and the continual request for snacks (or was that just us?) It hasn't been easy, but we did our best! We received some excellent feedback regarding the remote learning so thank you for the gratitude and for the constructive suggestions; it has been a huge learning curve for staff too, who have had to get to grips with new technology, teaching in front of a screen and mark work at strange times of the day, all while supporting the key worker children in school. The Governors not only thank the teaching staff for all their hard work, but also acknowledge and commend their resilience in such tough circumstances.

The Senior Leadership Team, with support from the Governors, have ensured the Risk Assessment is continually reviewed against changing data, so that through everyone's diligence we keep everyone safe and we thank parents for also following guidelines.

## GOVERNANCE

We started this term by co-opting and welcoming our first new Governor Linda and agreeing the committee members and roles for this academic year. More details are below. We welcomed our new Parent Governor, Sarah, following the recent election at our second Full Governors meeting.

With the current restrictions still in place we have continued to hold meetings via Zoom. This is working well so we have decided that once the restrictions are lifted we will still incorporate virtual meetings along with face-to-face as it helps to fit in the meetings along with family and work commitments.

In between the scheduled meetings, there have also been focused virtual meetings by those lead governors on Safeguarding, Pupil Premium, and SEND. We do hope we are able to make more visits to school in the near future though as we do miss seeing the teachers and children.

We have also completed a lot of training, again virtually, including (but not limited to) Safeguarding and Keeping Children Safe in Education, Equality, Unconscious Bias, Safer Recruitment, Understanding Performance, and Finance – Managing the Budget. There is heightened focus on Finance now that we are Fully Funded and this has been a learning curve for us all. This essentially means that although we are still a maintained school, we now have a greater responsibility in managing our own budget.

## OUTSIDE LEARNING AND LAND

Investigating grants, funding and development ideas for the land on the Cople site are still continuing with a vengeance. The land has been cleared and fenced off so we can now fully appreciate how vast it is. The planting of the trees by our Key Stage 2 children to create a copse was a positive and welcome start to returning to school.

The Curriculum Committee have heard about the exciting ways to use this space for outside learning and the training and investment opportunities available to enhance the curriculum.

As there is now less opportunity for engagement with parents, we will be putting a spotlight onto members of our Governing Board in future editions of our newsletter so that you can get to know us all a bit better individually. It is a good opportunity to start with our newest members for this edition!

## GOVERNOR SPOTLIGHT

### Linda Behan

I joined the Governing Body in September and this is my first Governor role. I recently moved to Cople from Surrey and am keen to get involved and give back to the local community. Being a school governor is a great way to do that and is a good cause.

I am now retired but for the last 10 years I worked for Pearson as a HR Business Partner in the education arm of the business so had experience working and advising teachers, mostly on work-based learning qualifications. Prior to this I was a manager at HSBC so hopefully I can put my finance knowledge to good use supporting the Resources Committee.



Two of my grandchildren are currently attending the school and I feel that it's very important for them to know that the family supports the school and therefore them.

Although I'm new to the village I've settled in very well. People are so welcoming and there were a lot of social events before lockdown which will hopefully start up again in the near future.

Line dancing is a passion of mine & I've found a few good clubs locally. Can't wait to dance again. But I have enough books and puzzle books to keep me going!

### Sarah Cropley

I was elected as a Parent Governor in October (many thanks to all who voted) and so have just started in this role.

I have lived in Willington for over eight years and love living here. There are so many lovely walks right on the doorstep!

I have three daughters, two of whom are at Sheerhatch Primary School. They love going to school and have always been very happy. I have been extremely impressed with the school's standards and am pleased to have the chance to help the school maintain these high standards.



I currently work in the Housing Strategy and Policy team at Bedford Borough Council and have done for 15 years. I am therefore used to writing strategies and policies as part of my job and feel that this will be a useful asset in my new role as Parent Governor.

I am looking forward to a new challenge in this new role

## Your Governing Board

The role of the school governor is demanding but very rewarding and is a good way to give back to your local community. The governors are volunteers and give up their skills, experience and time for free in order to help and support our school.

Chair	Siobhan Godden	Co-opted Governor	<i>HT Performance management Sits on Resources Committee</i>
Vice Chair	Martina Foster	Parent Governor	<i>Creative Curriculum Lead Sits on Curriculum Committee</i>
	Helen Ryan	Head Teacher	
	Stacie Bourne	Staff Governor	<i>Link Governor for Governor Training Sits on Resources Committee</i>
	Joyce Tucker	Co-opted Governor	<i>Link Governor for SEN; HT Performance management Chair of Resources Committee</i>
	Joanne McDowell	Co-opted Governor	<i>Chair of Curriculum Committee Link Governor for Equality</i>
	Paul Emery	Co-opted Governor	<i>Link Governor for Health &amp; Safety; Sits on Resources Committee</i>
	Anne Jones	Co-opted Governor	<i>Link Governor for EYFS; HT Performance management Sits on Curriculum Committee</i>
	Mary Whitehead	Co-opted Governor	<i>Link Governor Pupil Premium; Asst SEN Sits on Curriculum Committee</i>
	Chainie Worrall	Co-opted Governor	<i>Link Governor Safeguarding, Mental Health and Wellbeing. Sits on Resources Committee</i>
	Linda Behan	Co-opted Governor	<i>Sits on Resources Committee</i>
	Sarah Cropley	Parent Governor	<i>Sits on Curriculum Committee</i>
Clerk	Helen Endersby-Wood		

If there is any information you would like to know about the Governors and the work we are doing, please get in touch.



Siobhan Godden  
Chair of Governors

[s.godden@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk](mailto:s.godden@sheerhatchprimary.org.uk)