

# **GOVERNORS NEWSLETTER FOR HYDE SCHOOL**

**EDITION 11**

**summer term 2015**

Welcome to the eleventh edition of the Hyde School Governors newsletter, our once a term opportunity to inform parents about the work we have been doing to support our school.

## **RECONSTITUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

Last month we received the news that we have officially been reconstituted as a Governing Body and received our Instrument of Governance to fulfil our role. As discussed in our previous newsletter we have matched our team to responsibilities that need to be carried out for the governance of the school. Our line up is now as follows:

**ANNA HILLS.** Chair of Governors.

Anna has been a Governor of the school for nine years and was elected as Chair in September 2013. Formally a Community Governor, Anna was co-opted and re-elected as Chair. She will serve out her term of office for one more year. Anna's roles include responsibility for Safeguarding in the school and being part of the monitoring team in the School Improvement Committee. Having a background in both teaching and therapy, Anna is in school regularly in weekly 'Talking Time' sessions with pupils who have requested extra help and support. She is also part of a team that runs monthly Drama Club sessions with pupils from class one.

**MIKE MADGWICK**

Mike has served as a Governor for over 10 years. Starting off as a Parent Governor, Mike's background in land management have served us well in progressing the Land Swap scheme so the school can acquire more space for its development. Mike is Chair of the Finance and Building committee and has been instrumental in making sure that the school is in sound financial shape. Mike will retire from his role in February next year when his term of office expires.

**ROB SHADBOLT**

Rob, father of Toby and Zander brings with him skills and experience in buildings and finance. He has taken on the role of pursuing the Land Swap scheme, liaising with the myriad of authorities to bring the scheme into fruition. Rob also serves on the Finance and Buildings committee and has taken on the arduous task of updating our Health and Safety policies to meet with current standards.

**AMANDA PAINTER**

Amanda, mother of Elsa, is another parent Governor who serves on the School Improvement committee. Amanda has been busy this year in liaising with the HSFA

and working on the re modelling of the school's website which should be up and running by the end of this term. Amanda also attends the local Governors meetings, an important forum for communicating with other schools in the area. She has organised our whole Governor training this year, on the topic of Special Needs Education.

#### CLARE O'SHEA

Clare, mother of Olivia, has joined us as the third Parent Governor this term. Owing to her background in the Army and her experience of running a business, Clare has been welcomed onto the Finance and Buildings Committee. She will also take on the role of monitoring the provision of sport within the school. Clare is currently spearheading an application for the school to join a Government scheme: Solar Schools. At the time of writing we have just been informed that the school has been successful in its application. This means that we will now be given access to professional PR and fund raising as well as commercial sponsorship expertise to assist us in raising money to purchase solar panels for the school, thus saving energy in promoting renewable sources which will engage with the science and technology aspects of our curriculum. Clare will update us on in her progress in this area and in the meantime asks for the continuing interest and co-operation to make this work. Please think about any 'networks' for obtaining commercial sponsorship which would further our progress. Clare reports that Hampshire County Council would like to use us as a case study if we are successful in this project and by doing so encourage other schools to take the initiative in this area.

#### MARGARET BUNYARD

Margaret's background in teaching has served us well in contributing to the School Improvement committee. She is responsible for the monitoring of English in the school and will have regular contact with Sarah Close now she has returned to school in her role as the senior teacher in charge of this subject. Margaret, along with Anna and Rachel Fletcher have helped run the Drama Club for the Infant class. Margaret also has an important role in informing the Parish Council about news and events in the school.

#### SUE WILLCOCKS

Sue brings with her experience in working with children who require special needs and she has taken on the role of monitoring the provision of specialist help within the school. She has been updating us on recent legislation in this area and has regular contact with our SENCO Helen Smith who makes weekly visits to the school. Sue is one of our Foundation Governors, appointed by the Diocese to fulfil a religious as well as a secular role.

#### JAN HOUGHTON-BROWN

After serving many years as an Associate Governor, Jan returns to the team as a Full Governor, appointed by the Diocese to serve as a Foundation Governor. Jan will take

on the responsibility of monitoring the religious education in the school and will also liaise with Sarah Close about Early Years Learning.

#### **FIONA LEITH**

With a background in Science and Engineering, Fiona is contributing to both the Finance and School Improvement committees. Along with Anna she has visited the classroom in monitoring maths taught within the school and now that Helen Karopka has returned to the classroom after Maternity Leave there will be the opportunity for Fiona to develop her role in this area.

#### **JULIE DALZIELL**

As well as being Head, Julie has a key role as Governor. In our regular meetings, she presents her Head Teachers report which is examined by us all in assessing the well being of the school. She is responsible for updating us in significant changes in the curriculum and in our role as 'critical friend' we Governors have a duty both to question and support her actions in the running of the school. This term Julie and her staff have been busy working on a new protocol and process for assessing children's progress in key subjects. Key Governors on the School Improvement committee will form part of the cycle of planning, implementation and assessment of these new methods and attend staff meetings where they are discussed and fed into the school's current improvement plan.

#### **SARAH CLOSE**

It is good to welcome back Sarah both as a member of the Senior teaching staff and as a Governor. Sarah performs an important role in informing the Governors about Early Years Learning and the teaching of English. Both Sarah and Helen return as a job share to class one, combining their parental duties with their teaching roles.

By next term we will have welcomed our new Vicar the Rev. Ian Whitham onto our Board of Governors. We look forward to meeting with him and to our new vicar being part of the spiritual life of the school.

#### **STAFF AND GOVERNOR TRAINING**

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Staff and Governors combined for a training course on Special Needs and Disabilities, led by Sarah Keil, the County's Advisor on this subject. Sarah led us through aspects of the new legislation as applied to schools and provided an interactive and informative session for us all.

#### **GOVERNOR EVALUATION**

At our last Full Governors meeting we discussed our own work throughout the year and through the vehicle of a S.W.O.T analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) we came to the conclusion that we now had a strong team to undertake the many responsibilities that Governors now have to deal with, but we needed to be more proactive in promoting the school as our numbers are small and there is no longer the subsidy given by the County for support of small schools. We also looked to strengthening our relationship with other small schools in the area. By improving

our communications we could seek opportunities to share more resources in order for us to thrive and provide the best opportunities for all our children.

**FINALLY...**

At the end of another busy year, we wish all parents, teachers and children a happy summer and look forward to meeting up with everyone in the autumn term. We particularly wish all Year 6 children and those moving on to other schools every happiness and success in their future life beyond Hyde school. It has been a privilege to watch them grow and develop in our family of learners.

Anna Hills.