



Buriton Primary School Governors' Newsletter September 2017

Our Governors' Newsletter aims to tell Parents and Carers who we are, what we do as Buriton School Governors, and give you some information about what's going on in the wider Buriton community. We are particularly pleased to welcome onto the governing body Aaron Kentish and Peter Staple, who have joined us recently. Both have children at the school.

The School Governors currently number ten people, made up as follows:

Parent Governors:	Peter Staple Susie McKenney (Vice Chair & Chair of Finance & Personnel Committee)
Local Education Authority Governor:	Jane Wilkins
Co-Opted Governors:	Tom Cooper (Chair of Governors & Chair of Buildings & Site and Curriculum Committees) Rev. Judith Bee Lesley Hussell Hannah Buckingham Aaron Kentish
Staff Governors:	Danielle Brown (Head Teacher) Clare Evans
Clerk	Paul Shefford

You may know some of us through personal day-to-day contact, but we can all be contacted via the School Office.

Some personal introductions:

Judith Bee has lived in Buriton for 6 years. As the parish priest she has visited the school many times for assembly and also welcomed the school into the church for various events and curriculum-related topics. She was a primary school teacher for many years and her 3 children (now all grown up) were educated locally. She is on the Curriculum Committee and is a Link Governor with Emeralds Class.

Tom Cooper is the father of Jamie, who moved on to TPS a couple of years ago after 7 very happy years in the school. Tom has been a governor for eight years and is currently Chair of the Buildings & Site Committee. He is also the Chair of the Curriculum Committee, and Chair of Governors. He is a Link Governor with Pearls Class and is also the Link Governor for Special Educational Needs and Gifted, Able and Talented children. Tom has lived in Buriton for 15 years.

Susie McKenney moved to Buriton 13 years ago. Her elder son Thomas moved on to TPS from the school a couple of years ago, and her younger son Samuel has just left Year 6 to join his brother at TPS. She is Vice Chair and Chair of the Finance & Personnel Committee. She is also Link Governor to Diamonds and Sapphires Classes.

Jane Wilkins' grandchildren, Archie and Amelia Bradley, have both attended the school. She is a retired teacher but after retirement felt that she still wanted to be involved in education in a supportive role and was delighted to be accepted on Buriton's governing body in the spring of 2012. She serves on the Curriculum Committee and particularly enjoys going into school and working with the children in Diamonds and Sapphires Classes as their link governor.

Hannah Buckingham is one of our more recently-appointed Governors. Her son Elijah moved on from the school to TPS a couple of years ago. Hannah lives in Buriton where she is active in village life, and works for Hampshire County Council supporting families with multiple needs. She is a member of the Finance & Personnel Committee.

Lesley Hussell was appointed to the Governing Body last year. Her son Edward attended the school and moved on to secondary school a few years ago. She is a member of the Finance & Personnel Committee.

Mrs Brown and Mrs Evans need no introduction! As Governors we are also served by our Clerk, Paul Shefford, and Sally Slack does a lot for us as well as all the other things she does for the school. We couldn't possibly manage without them!

What do Governors do?

As governors, our main responsibility is to work with the school to provide the best possible education and care of all of the children in as many ways as we can. Our primary role is to recognise, support, encourage and applaud the successes and achievements of children and staff. As we are not involved with the day-to-day running of the school we are able to take more of an overview, to check that the school is moving in the direction set out in its prospectus. As governors we do not represent particular interest groups - our responsibility is to the education, safety and well-being of all of the children.

We also have a responsibility to make sure that plans are carried out, and to check that targets for progress are being met. We need to notice and respond to genuine concerns, problems or difficulties that may arise, and to question what steps are being taken to resolve such issues. In addition, we are involved with future planning for the school, to make sure that improvements can continue.

A lot of paperwork is involved in being a governor, as records have to be checked for reliability and kept for essential inspection. The school has many policies derived from government and

from Hampshire County Council to comply with, and part of our role is to make sure that these are in place.

We meet for a Full Governing Body meeting at least once a term, and all of us serve on at least one of our three committees: Curriculum (which oversees all of the activities of the school, not just what goes on in the classroom), Buildings & Site (which is concerned with matters such as the maintenance, security and potential improvement of the school) and Finance & Personnel. The minutes of all of our meetings are available for inspection at the School Office.

Congratulations to children and staff

As you will have read in the school newsletter at the beginning of term, the results for last term's SATs tests were outstandingly good. The governors congratulated the children and staff for all their hard work and spectacular achievements which reflect the enormous effort made by everyone at the school this year. This was a particularly impressive result as it followed the multiple challenges posed by the fundamental changes to testing applied by the government, which first came into effect last year. We feel certain that the school will continue to build on this success under the outstanding leadership of Mrs Brown, and we particularly thank Miss Green and Mrs Evans for all that they have done and continue to do for the children.

The Governors wish all the children a most successful and happy year discovering the wonders of learning at Buriton Primary School.

Buriton News

Many of you do not live in Buriton, and therefore don't necessarily have access to what is going on in and around the village. The best source of up-to-date information about events in and around Buriton is the website, www.buriton.info which is updated regularly. If you have anything to add yourself you can contact Wendy Shone on 01730 268601 or wendy@bhcs.fsnet.co.uk

The following are a few items that might be of particular interest:

Buriton's Post Office is great if you want to miss the queues. It's open every Friday from 12.30-2.30 in the Seward Room in St Mary's Church. You get a free cuppa when you visit! There are also Fairtrade items on sale.

Films in Buriton host films in Buriton Village Hall, with doors opening (usually) at 7.00pm. This autumn's films are: Hampstead (10 November), Another Mother's Son (8 December) and Beauty and the Beast (21 December – doors open at 5.30pm).

Buriton Fireworks Night is on Friday 3 November on the rec. Gates open at 6.30, fireworks at 7.30. This is deservedly an extremely popular event, so put it in the diary!

Buriton Chalk Pits

The school has made full use of the Buriton Chalk Pits since they were opened several years ago. If you haven't been up there yet, you must visit. It's a short pleasant walk up South Lane - carry straight on when you get to the railway bridge and the trail to the pits is about 200 metres on the

left. There's another trail to the right about 30 metres further on up the main path which has a lot of woodland sculptures to spot - a perfect way to encourage short legs to keep going!

The school recently acquired a pack of resource materials connected with the historic lime industry at the Chalk Pits from the Buriton Village Group, and the children will be making use of these in their activities there. Information leaflets about the Chalk Pits can be found at the Church and at the Village Hall, or downloaded from the Buriton website. The Queen Elizabeth Park Rangers are hosting an event including a guided walk round the chalk pits on Saturday 21 October from 4pm, and Ranger Joe will be giving a talk on the chalk pits in Buriton Village Hall on Wednesday 18 October at 7.30pm.