



Governors' Newsletter January 2019

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 Tristan Shanks and Helen Van Der Lugt, who have joined us recently.

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

Parent Governors:	Peter Staple (Vice Chair) Tristan Shanks
Local Education Authority Governor:	Helen Van Der Lugt
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 Diamonds Class.

Tom Cooper is the father of Jamie, who moved on to TPS a few years ago after 7 very happy years in the school. Tom has been a governor for ten 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 16 years.

Hannah Buckingham is one of our Co-Opted Governors. Her son Elijah moved on from the school to TPS a few 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 is another of our Co-Opted Governors. Her son Edward attended the school and moved on to secondary school a few years ago. She is currently Chair 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.

Some paperwork is involved in being a governor, as records have to be checked for reliability and kept for essential inspection, though nowadays this is increasingly kept on line. 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 and updated regularly.

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 summer'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. In addition, the league tables which have recently been

published place Buriton in the top 6 of primary schools in the whole of Hampshire, and at the very top in the category of Reading. We feel certain that the school will continue to build on this success under the outstanding leadership of Mrs Brown, and we thank Miss Green, Mrs Evans and all the staff 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.

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 **9.30 – 11.30am** 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 at 7.00pm for a 7.30 start. This spring's films are: The Children Act (12A) (1 February), The King of Thieves (15) (1 March) and First Man (12A) (5 April). Refreshments are available and ticket prices are being held at £5.

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!

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, especially 'our' ranger, Ashlea Walters (02392 595040), are hosting several work party events, on 26 January, 16 February and 16 March. Each session will run from 9.30 to around 1pm. The ranger advises that it will be cold, so please dress warmly. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided!