

**Buriton Primary School
Governors' Newsletter
January 2024**

Our Governors' Newsletter aims to tell Parents and Carers who we are and what we do as Buriton School Governors.

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

Parent Governors:	Peter Staple (Vice Chair) Hannah Griffiths
Local Education Authority Governor:	Nathan Kallaher
Co-Opted Governors:	Tom Cooper (Chair of Governors) Lesley Hussell Simon Clark
Staff Governors:	Danielle Brown (Head Teacher) Clare Evans
Clerk	Helen Evison

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:

Tom Cooper is the father of Jamie, who moved on to TPS several years ago after 7 very happy years in Buriton Primary. Tom has been a governor for 14 years and is the Chair of Governors. He is a Link Governor with Sapphires and Emeralds Classes and is also the Link Governor for Special Educational Needs and Gifted, Able and Talented children. Tom has lived in Buriton for over 21 years.

Lesley Hussell is one of our Co-Opted Governors. Her son Edward attended the school and moved on to secondary school several years ago.

Mrs Brown and Mrs Evans need no introduction!

As Governors we are also served by our Clerk, Helen Evison, and Jo Eades 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 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 via the school office.

Congratulations to children and staff

During the last two and a half years, in common with the rest of the nation, the school has faced an extraordinary level of disruption due to the coronavirus. Throughout this period the school showed amazing resilience in carrying on with the essential task of transmitting education to the children. This was carried out with astounding success despite repeated closures and the necessity to monitor and contain infection through continual testing of staff and children and the isolation of classes in bubbles. Thankfully those darkest days of the pandemic seem to be behind us, even though the virus has clearly not gone away entirely. During the pandemic governors continued to meet online, but it's only been in the last year that we have finally been able to meet face-to-face in school once more. Being able to access the school physically is of immense importance to governors, as it enables us to see what is going on there first-hand, talk to children and teachers, and share in the learning experience.

The governors congratulate the children and staff for all their hard work and achievements which reflect the enormous effort made by everyone at the school over the last two years. This achievement was validated by the Ofsted inspection in September, which firmly sustained the school's 'Good' rating. We are confident that the school will continue to build on this success under the outstanding leadership of Mrs Brown, and we thank Mrs Evans, Miss Moore 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.

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 little 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.