

## GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2009

Welcome to the first of our 'new-style' termly governors' newsletters. Our aim is for this to inform parents and carers a little more about the role of Brighstone School's governing body. A selection of our governors have prepared a short summary, which makes reference to their role and responsibilities, and what they have been doing this term for our children and the school.

**Samantha Keen (Foundation Governor)** I am a Foundation Governor and was appointed by the Diocese to the Governing Body in September 2009. I am the mother of Grace (Lion class) and James (pre-school) and am looking forward to having both children within the school when James joins the Reception class in September 2010. I sit on both the Quality of Standards of Education committee and the Leadership and Management group, and have a particular interest in the change management aspects of the school reorganisation. As a link class Governor, I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Year 1 class this term and have been made very welcome by both Miss Brough and the children: thank you! These visits make a lovely change from working on the mainland and it is a special privilege to share in the education of our children.

**Helen Williams / Stichbury (Associate Governor)** Hi, I'm Helen, known as Williams in my role as Associate Governor, and Stichbury in my role as Sustainable School Travel Officer for the Isle of Wight Council. I joined the governing body in 2008 as I am keen to support the enthusiasm, care and opportunities offered to young people through the school in Brighstone. My children were raised in Niton and, now they are grown up, they treasure the start that a small village environment gave them, and I would like all children to have a similar (and even better!) experience.

In my job I work with every school on the Island, working with parents, pupils, staff and governors to improve active travel to school. This brings me into contact with people from all walks of life and from all across the Island, a network which I try to use to the best advantage for everyone and, of course, that includes Brighstone Primary! My role includes working with the Healthy Schools, Eco-Schools and Extended Services managers across the Island, and I am particularly keen to support the community and 'holistic' development of the school, so I sit on the Community Cohesion Working Group, and the Leadership, Management & Community committee.

**Reverend Malcolm Williams (Foundation Governor)** During nearly two years of being Priest in Charge of the five parishes of Brighstone, Mottistone, Brook, Shorwell and Chale, I have been enormously impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of staff, and the willingness to learn from the children. It is always a joy to lead collective worship in school and I also wish to encourage the continued good relationship between the Church at St Mary's and the school.

I know both myself and many people from the village were tremendously impressed and indeed moved by the children singing, 'We will remember the soldiers who died' at the war memorial on the 11th of November, and this is only one of the links with the church. It is always good to see teachers, children and parents joining us for worship at other times such as Easter, Christmas etc. Long may these links continue.

**Roy Bromley (Foundation Governor)** I have been a governor since November 2007 and as a Foundation Governor, I am nominated by St Mary's Church. I sit on most of the committees and chair the "Quality of Education, Standards and Outcomes" committee. We report to the full governing body and look in detail at pupil attainment, progress and policies relating to curriculum, worship and complaints. We also monitor, scrutinise and develop pupil attendance, safety, enjoyment, contribution to the wider community and general well-being. I am Link Governor for Lion class which I enjoy visiting, and where I have the opportunity to work with the children. This term I have been on the visits to Carisbrooke Castle and the Mary Rose with years 2/4 - both trips were great fun (and educational too). I have a daughter in Tiger Class and believe that all children should have access to a first-class education.

**Nathalie Van Couter (Parent Governor)** I am the vice-chair to the Full Governing Body, and also a Development Governor (providing information and assistance concerning training for our governors, teachers and staff). In addition to this, I am chair of the Leadership, Management and Community committee, who are responsible for the monitoring of the budget and for making decisions on building works, repairs, and maintenance and for extended schools (0 to 11 years), ensuring we provide the best for our school and pupils.

I have Hannah in Tiger class and Luka in Leopard class. I read with the children in Leopard class on a Monday afternoon, which both the children and I enjoy very much.

**Iain Johnstone (Foundation Governor)** I have been a Foundation Governor at Brighstone School for nearly five years, having been appointed by the Portsmouth Diocese. My background is in science and engineering and I am a consultant public health engineer, specialising in drainage system design. I have spent many years in education, teaching life sciences at both secondary school and undergraduate level. Mondays is science afternoon with Tiger class, and I try to get in whenever possible as it is great fun and very stimulating to work with our 'eldest class' of pupils. Brighstone School is a very special place for me and it is always a pleasure to be there with the pupils. It also reminds me that even though I think that I work hard, there are those (our teachers) that work even harder; I have a great admiration for them in their dedication to ensuring the children get the best learning and fun that is available.

**Liz Brammall (Foundation Governor)** I was appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education as a Foundation Governor in September 2009. Although a new governor, I was Clerk to the Governing Body for approximately 7-years whilst my son was at Brighstone School; he is now in Year 7 at Middle School. I currently have a daughter in Leopard Class who will now see the school through to Year 6. Earlier in the year I chose to be the Early Years Foundation Stage Link Governor. I have really enjoyed my Friday mornings with Panther Class and having school lunch in the hall with all the children. It is great to feel the positive atmosphere within the school and see the children so keen to learn new subjects and ideas.

**Ross Davidson (Parent Governor)** I have been a Parent Governor at Brighstone now for almost 2-months. It is a very interesting and rewarding role, and I am grateful for being presented with the opportunity.

In my day job I work as an engineering project manager, and with this background, I am drawn to the Leadership and Management group, and the School Re-organisation Working Group; I feel these are the areas in which I will have the most positive effect. As with all governors, I also sit on the Full Governing Body.

**Amanda Johnston (Headteacher)** As Headteacher, I am also an appointed governor to the school and an active member of all governing body committees and working groups. It is my responsibility to work with the clerk and chairs of each committee, to create meeting agendas that meet both statutory requirements, as well as focus on taking the school forward by addressing the priorities in the school development plan. I prepare all policies, a variety of reports, financial documents and the school's self-evaluation document, to present to governors on a regular basis. The governors then act as 'critical friends' through their questioning, providing an external perspective on that which has been presented, considering the strategic needs of the school as a whole. We also have a Teacher Governor, Susie Pugh and non-Teaching Governor, Jan Munt.

**Denis Russell (Foundation Governor)** I have been a Governor at Brighstone for many years and am at present Chairman of the Full Governing Body, and the School Re-organisation Working Group, which are at present concentrating on the future of the School. These are exciting times for us all as we undertake school reorganisation. This will add years five and six, increasing the number of children and the space needed to accommodate them, and the staff to teach them.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our Head teacher and all our present staff who I think do a magnificent job in furthering the education of our children.