



## **Governors' Newsletter for Autumn Term 2018**

Dear Parents and Friends of Itchen Abbas Primary School,

Half a term into the new school year seems a good time to report that everyone - children and staff – have settled well in their new year groups. On our visits, the governors notice a very positive and productive environment.

The governors meet once a half term for a 2 hour meeting. At these meetings we discuss a variety of subjects including an update on the budget, the School Development plan, the current data on the children's progress and achievements, (No particular children are discussed as we are looking at overall trend,) SEN and Safeguarding, staffing, updating of policies (you won't believe how many policies schools need these days,) the Head gives a report on all aspects of school life and we consider out training needs and how to address them. As you can imagine, we usually run over our designated 2 hours.

As well as attending our regular meetings, there is usually at least one initiative we are working on. Currently Will Barrett and Richard Hunt have started some research on how the governors and school can ensure communication is efficient. Thank you to all those parents who have so far contributed to that work. Will and Richard will be feeding back to the school staff and us to consider what we can add to that aspect of our work. Relationships amongst the school community are really important to us. It is sometimes difficult to maintain a professional approach and yet be open and available.

Having discussed the new SEN developments, Governors suggested providing opportunities for parents to express their views on the new systems whilst they were at parents' evenings. Thank you again to all those who did that.

We also like to participate in school life and many of us attend the Friday celebration assemblies on a regular basis. Several governors also joined the school for the Harvest Festival which was a lovely occasion in the church. The children's singing was a real joy to hear especially as they successfully tackled the 3-part songs.

The Governing Body now consists of:

Jo Smith

Clerk to the governors

Barbara Dobson

Chair of Governors, member of the Resources committee, class link with Otters, and linked with the Core Curriculum group and supporting and monitoring the Leadership aspects of the School Development Plan.

Beccy Clark

Vice-chair of Governors, member of Performance Management committee, class link with Squirrels, Child Protection and LAC governor, supporting and monitoring the Early years aspects of the School Development Plan.

Frank Burrows

Member of Resources committee, Health and Safety governor, Village Hall representative

Richard Hunt

Member of Resources committee, supporting and monitoring the Outcomes and Data aspects of the School Development Plan

Will Barrett

Member of Resources committee, linked with the Humanities curriculum group

Georgie Krone

SEN Governor, class link with Hedgehogs

Chris Martin

Supporting and monitoring the Teaching and Learning aspect of the School Development plan, linked with the Science curriculum group

Caro O'Brien

Class link with Foxes, member of Performance Management committee, linked with the Arts curriculum group, supporting and monitoring Behaviour and Personal Welfare aspect of the School Development Plan

Catherine Cronin

Governor training co-ordinator

James Rember

Member and Chair of Resources committee

We look forward to meeting and sharing with you many of the school activities that will be taking place on our run up to Christmas.

Best wishes

Barbara Dobson

Chair of Governors