

## Welcome to our first Governors Newsletter!

We hope to prepare a brief newsletter twice a year so that we can keep the school family up to date with what we have been up to and to give you a bit more of an insight into what we actually do.

Firstly, we are happy to announce that we have a new Chair of Governors, Marianne Smallman, who was formerly the Vice Chair. Stepping into her shoes we have Kelly Mack and Gill Butler taking on Co-Vice Chair positions.

We would like to thank Rob Harborne, the former Chair of Governors for all the hard work, dedication and commitment he has given to Crookham Infants School for more than a decade: he will be missed!

As Governors our role is to look at the overview of Crookham Infant school to support its effective running. We do this by:-

- Ensuring that the vision and ethos truly reflects the school and that there is strategic direction. Governors should not be involved with the day to day running of the school as this is the Headteacher's role.
- Working in partnership with the school to make sure that it is run the best it can be and ensuring effective performance of the all of the staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure that money is well spent.

We meet as a Full Governing Body at least once a term and there are a few committees that look at specific aspects of the school, for example, The Standards and Staffing Committee and The Finance, Buildings, Health and Safety Committee.

At our meetings we receive a written and verbal report from Mrs Bowen, looking at what needs to be done to improve the school; what we are in the process of improving and

reflecting on how well things have been implemented.

As Governors we make visits to the school (perhaps once a term) to ensure that the strategic plans are being carried out as they have been agreed. We help with: reviewing and updating policies; analysing data to improve the school; making sure that information is being reported accurately and assisting with school admissions.

Over the last few academic years as Governors our focuses have included:

- Handwriting – one of the aims of Mrs Bowen and the staff was to improve handwriting across the school. We have a specific Governor who oversees how this is going, checking that the school is meeting its aims by visiting with teachers and looking at examples of handwriting and discussing the various teaching techniques and approaches that are being used.
- Phonics Scheme & Reading Scheme – there have been some significant changes in recent years to the schemes the school has adopted, and we are there to ensure that the aims are being met, the schemes are being used and to consider the results to check that things are indeed improving.

As Governors we will also be there to support the staff should OFSTED undertake an inspection, some of us will be interviewed by OFSTED and we hope to have a chance to show our love and support for the school!

You can find all of our details on the school website so please do feel free to say hi and ask any questions you might have. However, if you have any concerns about day-to-day life at school then the best starting place is with your class teacher or Mrs Bowen.