

## **Cove Junior School Chair of Governor's Report March 2023**

Since our last Chair of Governor's report, we have seen a return to normal school life. The Governors are, however, aware that the lockdowns had an impact on many members of our community. We have, therefore, made well-being a priority and we hold discussions on how children and staff are doing at every meeting. As part of our commitment to the health and wellbeing of our pupils, the Governors organised the planting of our new community orchard. It looks as if our trees have survived the drought in early summer 2022 and the recent frosts. We look forward to our first crops this summer.

The school governing body has recently focussed on attendance and attainment. Since the pandemic, rates of attendance for a small minority have gone down and the school governors would encourage all parents and carers to do their best to ensure their children attend school regularly. The school has several options available to help.

We currently have 300 children on roll out of a possible 300. This is great news for the children as it means we are fully funded for the next financial year.

### **Financial Statement.**

The school follows the Manual of Finance guidelines as required by Hampshire County Council. We have maintained a positive budget over the last year and have a healthy carry forward into the next financial year. The main expenditure is on the salaries of personnel.

Our planned budget for financial year is 22/23

<b>Budget FY 22/23</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£1,521,019</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£1,569,702</b>
<b>In year Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(£48,683)</b>
<b>Surplus/ Deficit B/Fwd.</b>	<b>£159,054</b>
<b>Surplus/ deficit C. Fwd.</b>	<b>£110,371</b>

The Governors monitor the budget at least 6 times a year and are supported by Mrs Caroline Gontard, who has a wealth of experience in school budgeting.

The carry forward is healthy, but governors are aware that we are running an in-year deficit and that the government has not committed to fully funding pay rises so caution is needed with future budgeting. Current forecasts are that our current spending will be in line with this budget. Work is now on-going for next year's budget which runs along financial rather than school years.

The governors are committed to making more use of our new classroom and would welcome any interested parties who may want to let it. If you are interested, please contact the school office for more details.

The School Governors changed our ways of working in 2020. Instead of 6 full governing body meetings and a number of sub-committees, we now all meet 10 times a year. Our rationale was that it would enable all governors to have a better overview of all school issues thus raising knowledge. Additionally, it helps with the Headteacher's and staff governors' work/life balance. Since changing to our flat structure, we have regularly reviewed it and have found that it has been overwhelmingly positive. All governors now have a much better understanding of all areas of school life and can be seen regularly visiting the school to monitor various areas. For example, we look at how different areas of the curriculum meets the needs of our pupils, to monitor safeguarding practices, make financial checks, and to monitor the fabric of the school and its environment. The results of each visit are fed back to governors.

### **The Cove Junior School Governing Body**

The school governing body consist of 12 members made up from the Headteacher, a local authority governor, a staff governor, six co-opted governors and three parent governors.

Our meetings are minuted by a Local Authority clerk, Mrs. L. McBrearty.

Our current Governors are: -

Mrs T. Hickie Headteacher  
Mrs C. Pickup Local Authority Governor, Chair of Governors  
Mrs L. Shaw Co-opted Governor, Vice Chair of Governors  
Mr W. Gargan Co-opted Governor  
Mrs K Brant Co-opted Governor  
Mrs M. Gujer, Co-opted Governor  
Mr C. Bevan, Parent Governor  
Mr A. Bober, Parent Governor  
Mr N. Matulewicz-Boyle, Parent Governor  
Miss E. Freeman Staff Governor

We have two vacancies for co-opted governors and would welcome applications from members of our local community.