

Cove Junior School Chair of Governor's Report June 2021

Since our last Chair of Governor's report, we have seen a number of changes in education. I am pleased that as a community, Cove Junior School has responded positively to the unprecedented challenges.

When the pandemic struck in 2020, and the school had its first closure, our teaching staff had to get to grips with Google Classroom and to developing a completely new way of delivering the curriculum. In the last closure, the school had a large percentage of our pupils in school, including the children of our key workers, so the learning package had to be tailored so that no child missed out on key points of their education. The governors are keenly aware of the challenges of home schooling and are grateful to our parents and carers who played such an important role in helping their children.

We currently have 291 children on roll out of a possible 300. With the opening of our new classroom, Lightning, the school was able to offer single form entry from September 2020 and now all our children are taught in their own year groups. This has been of enormous benefit and allowed our teachers to fully focus on the learning of each year group. We have also turned the school upside down; Upper School are now taught in what was previously known as Lower School. We made this decision based on the physical size of the classrooms. Lower School had bigger rooms, so it made sense to put the bigger children in them. Logistically this was no mean feat.

The School Governors have recently changed our ways of working. 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 an overview of all school issues thus raising knowledge. Additionally, it helps with the Headteacher's and staff governors' work/life balance. We are monitoring how effective this flat structure is but are finding we are more able to act quickly and to be more strategic.

Our priorities for the short term are ensuring that the funding provided by the Government for catch-up is appropriately spent and supporting and challenging the leadership in our roles as critical friends. Our long-term strategic thinking will be discussed in the next academic year when we will be looking at how we can make Cove Junior School and the educational experience the best it can be.

The Cove Junior School Governing Body consists of:

The Headteacher, a local authority governor, a staff governor, six co-opted governors and three parent governors. A total of twelve members of the Governing Body. Our meetings are minuted by a Local Authority clerk, Mrs. L. McBrearty.

Our current Governors are: -

Mrs T. Hickie Headteacher

Mrs C. Pickup Co-opted Governor, Chair of Governors

Mrs K Brant Co-opted Governor, Vice Chair of Governors

Mrs S. Wright Co-opted Governor
Mrs L. Shaw Co-opted Governor
Mr W. Gargan Co-opted Governor
Mrs N. Roberts Parent Governor
Mrs S. Maddox Parent Governor
Mrs I. White Parent Governor
Miss E. Freeman Staff Governor

We have two vacancies, a co-opted and a local authority governor.

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. Another main expenditure was the new building. Now called Lightning Class, the new building will house the breakfast and after school club and, over time, will become available outside of school hours for community use once we can open more fully.

Our budget for Financial year 20/21

Total Income 1,419,703

Total Expenditure 1,491,843

In year Surplus / (Deficit) (72,140)

Surplus / (Deficit) B/Fwd. 134,442

Surplus / (Deficit) C. Fwd. 62,302

The Governors monitor the budget at least 6 times a year and are supported by Mrs Zoe Fuller, our fantastic Business Manager.

In conclusion, it has been a challenging year where we have all had to adapt to new ways of working and the Governing Body is very grateful to Mrs Hickie and Mr Gargan who have worked tirelessly to provide the best possible education to our children, offered support to parents and carers and dealt with a deluge of directives from the Government on a daily basis.