



Issue 3
Autumn Term 2009

Sheering C of E Primary School Governing Body



Governors Update

We have been delighted to welcome Julie Lorkins as our new Headteacher this term as part of the Sheering School Team.

The school's financial performance has been compared with that of similar schools using DCSF benchmarking data. In most areas we are broadly in line with the average expenditure. We have higher than average teaching costs as we have very experienced staff.

Assistance was requested from the Finance Committee to pay for emergency boiler and plumbing repairs to ensure heating during the winter. Agreed funds were transferred from the contingency.

The most exciting news is that we have been successful in our bid for joint funding for the Hays Library building project. This will be the biggest improvement to the School Premises since the ICT suite was added in 2004. We hope that work will start on the build at Easter (final details allowing) and that the majority of work will be carried out in the Summer 2010.

The school had a huge spring clean during the Summer holiday! Governors thank the staff for clearing out the school and refining our available resources.

A Critical Incident Plan is now in place which is similar to those used by Councils in case of any major incident. The Health and Safety Policy has been revised.

The Premises Committee joins Mrs Lorkins in requesting that parents park in the Village Hall car park. We have been asked by the pub landlord and the police to ensure parents do not park in the pub car park or on the roads outside the school (The Street and Church Lane) and the school car park is for staff and visitors' use only.

This term Governors have received training in Creating a Vision for Your School, Improving Attendance and Governance Target Tracking and Linda Ainsworth attended the Chairs of Governors communication update.

The Governing Body are pleased to congratulate Mrs Olley for achieving her Diploma of School Business Management and her award for best Case Study nationally for her cohort.

The Personnel & Curriculum Committee congratulate Classes 1 and 3 for winning the Attendance cup this term. Well done!

The cycle of individual governor visits to school and reports to the Governing Body, focussing on their curriculum or Every Child Matters Agenda areas, is underway. A rolling programme of Staff presentations to governors on focus area has been initiated this term.



Parent Governor Vacancy



Could this be you?

In January we will be asking for nominations for a Parent Governor to join the Governing Body.

The Governing Body works with the Headteacher and staff to make sure the school provides a good quality of education and a safe environment for all its pupils. Governors have three main roles: to provide strategic direction for the school, to act as a critical friend to the Headteacher and to ensure accountability.

As a school governor you may be involved in financial management, setting targets in standards and achievement, maintenance and management of the school premises or personnel matters including staff appointments. Governors have overall responsibility for the management of the school. The Headteacher, who is also a Governor, has responsibility for the day to day decisions about the running of the school.

The full Governing Body, and the committees within it, meet at least once a term. We have a programme of focussed visits where an individual Governor monitors their curriculum or Every Child Matters Agenda area.

Parent Governors are elected every four years by other parents and usually serve for terms of four years on the Governing Body. They bring the views of the parents to the Governing Body, but they speak and act as individuals. Governors are required to observe strict rules of confidentiality. The role is unpaid and voluntary.

You will be given a Governor Handbook and an Information Pack for Governors which equip you immediately with all the basic documentation you need to start your term. You will also have access to free Governor Training through Essex County Council Governor Services. For your first year you will be assigned a mentor from the existing Governors.

Would you like to be part of the team and share your skills for the benefit of the children's education, to help the school to improve and to make a difference for the children in the community? Help make our school a fantastic place to learn.

For more information, please feel free to talk to the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors, Linda Ainsworth (734333) or Alison Uncle (734451) or look online at www.essexcc.gov.uk/governors

Your Governing Body 2009–2010



In accordance with the Instrument of Government for Voluntary Controlled Schools our Governing Body comprises:

Headteacher Governor : Julie Lorkins

1 Teacher Governor : Sharon Strank

2 Community Governors : Linda Ainsworth (Chair), Tony Scott

3 Foundation Governors : Rev Brian Surtees (ex officio), Barbara Barker, vacancy

5 Parent Governors : Alison Uncle (Vice Chair), Damien Devine, Andy Hoy, Lee Stevens, vacancy

1 Local Authority Governor : Sue Dikmen

Clerk / School Business Manager : Louise Olley

Finance Committee

Sue Dikmen (Chair)

Damien Devine



Tony Scott

Rev Brian Surtees

Sharon Strank

Julie Lorkins

Personnel and Curriculum Committee



Alison Uncle (Chair)

Linda Ainsworth

Barbara Barker

Lee Stevens

Sue Dikmen

Sharon Strank

Julie Lorkins



Premises Committee

Andy Hoy (Chair)

Alison Uncle

Barbara Barker

Julie Lorkins

Rev Brian Surtees



Areas of Responsibility

Linda Ainsworth	Curriculum & Assessment Special Educational Needs Gifted, Talented & Able
Alison Uncle	Literacy
Andy Hoy	Safeguarding Health & Safety
Sue Dikmen	Numeracy Leadership & Management
Tony Scott	Safeguarding
Lee Stevens	ICT
Damien Devine	Pupil Welfare Science & Technology Equal Opportunities
Barbara Barker	Early Years
Rev Brian Surtees	Extended Services Community Cohesion RE Child Protection

Critical Incident Team

Julie Lorkins

Sharon Strank

Louise Olley

Linda Ainsworth

Alison Uncle

Sandra Dyble

Andy Hoy



Strategic Working Party

Linda Ainsworth

Alison Uncle

Andy Hoy

Sue Dikmen

Sharon Strank

Julie Lorkins

Louise Olley

The Governing Body and Committee Meetings are clerked by Mrs Olley.

Other committees formed are:

Appointed Governors

Headteacher Pay & Performance & Staff Pay

Headteacher Pay Appeals & Staff Pay Appeals

Staff Disciplinary

Disciplinary & Dismissal Appeals

How you can help the School



There are 4 main ways to help the school.

PTFA	All parents are automatically members of the PTFA. The PTFA-led Christmas Bazaar raised a fantastic £1000. To find out more or to offer to join the committee or offer help at events please contact Karen Maris or Carly Poyser.
Governor	To find out more about being a school governor please see the information on page 2 or talk to any of the governors.
Fundraising	There are many ways to raise money or fund extra equipment. Shopping at Amazon online through the link on the school website, www.sheeringschool.org.uk , raises 6% of the purchase cost. In November we raised £69.75 and are up to £53 already in December. Using www.easyfundraising.org.uk also generates income. Please collect Books for Schools tokens from the Times and Sunday Times and also tokens from the various supermarkets.
Practical Help	To offer practical help such as helping in class or using your skills in odd jobs around the school please contact Mrs Olley.

Notice board



Governor Meetings

- * Jan 29 Premises
- * 8 Feb Personnel & Curriculum
- * 1 Mar Full Governing Body
- * 8 Mar Finance
- * 29 Mar Personnel & Curriculum
- * 26 Apr Finance
- * 26 Apr Full Governing Body

The Governing Body would like to thank the pupils, staff, parents and friends of the school for their hard work and support.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



Community Events

- * Sun 29 Dec 11.00 Christingle Service St Mary's Church
- * Thurs 24 Dec Christmas Eve Midnight Communion 11.30pm St Mary's Church
- * Fri 25 Dec Christmas Day Family Communion 11.00
- * Sat 26 Dec Christmas Walk 10.15 meet in Village Hall Car Park
- * Thurs 31 Jan New Years Eve Line Dance Village Hall
- * Tues 19 Jan Bingo Village Hall
- * Sat 20 Feb Friends of St Mary's Quiz Night
- * Tues 23 Feb Bingo Village Hall
- * Mon 1 March Sheering News copy date for adverts, letters and articles
- * Tuesday Teas every Tuesday 2.30-4.00 Church Room

School Dates

- * Mon 4 Jan Staff Training Day
- * Tues 5 Jan Start of Spring Term
- * Mon 11 Jan School clubs start
- * Tues 12 Jan PTFA Meeting in School Hall 7.30pm
- * Wed 20 Jan Parent Forum 2.30pm
- * Mon 15—Fri 29 Feb Half Term Holiday
- * Tues 23 Feb Parent Consultation meetings 6.30pm-8.30pm
- * Thurs 25 Feb Parent Consultation meetings 3.30pm-5.30pm
- * Fri 26 Feb PTFA Race Night
- * Wed 10 Mar Mothers Day service at St Mary's 10am (tbc)
- * Thurs 10 Mar Parents Writing Workshop Evening (tbc)
- * Mon 29 Mar Rainbow Theatre Production—The Easter Story
- * Thurs 1 Apr Easter service in hall 9.30am and End of Term