

# GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

## The Branch AUTUMN TERM 2020



### Welcome to our first newsletter of this school year.

It is so nice to be able to write this newsletter to ALL the parents and carers of the pupils of Orchard Junior School. Whilst I never had any doubt about the capabilities of the school leadership team and staff I did wonder at one point if we were ever going to be in a position to have all the children back in school together. Of course the 7 September 2020 arrived as did all the members of the Orchard Junior School community and everyone stepped up and did what needed to be done. Congratulations to everybody in making this first half term a success.

### 1. Governing Body Chair / Committee Selections

In the first Full Governing Body meeting of each new school year, the Chair of Governors and Vice-Chair are chosen along with the Chair of the two committees. For this school year, Nikki Brigg was re-elected as Chair of Governors with Emily Smith was re-elected for the role of Vice-Chair.

The two committee Chairs will be decided at their first meetings in November.

### 2. Key Positions

- Barry Markham is Health & Safety Governor
- Becky Littler is Safeguarding Governor
- Kathy Jones is SEN Governor
- Ian Taverner is Pupil Premium & Sports Funding Governor
  
- Other governors are, Jenni Dew, Sue Wingrove, Nicky Hopkins, Gary Hampton and Carol Taylor.
  
- We will continue to structure our link governor roles this year to focus on the school's key priorities.

### 3. New governors

We have two new governors who have joined us this year. Nicky Hopkins & Gary Hampton are both co-opted governors. We still have a vacancy for a co-opted governor. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

## Recovery Plan

The Governors will be working alongside the school Senior Leadership Team as they continue to work with the children to enable them to get the most out of the school experience. Areas of focus for the rest of this term will continue to be:

- \*Re- establishing positive relationships in school for both adults and children
- \*Feeling safe and secure
- \*Re-establish learning routines.

Children will have recently been assessed to identify any gaps in their learning and this information along with the information provided by parents in the survey completed before the start of term will be used to shape the learning for the rest of the school year.

Governors would like to thank parents & carers for completing the school survey back in September. This information has proved very useful for Jenni Dew, as Recovery Manager, to share with staff about any particular issues a child or family may have or have had during Covid-19 and enables the school to direct any help and assistance needed.

## New School website

During lockdown we understandably had a lot of traffic on the school website. Over the summer Mr Parker has been working on a new school website which is full of useful information.

[www.orchardjunior.com](http://www.orchardjunior.com)

## WANTED – A CO-OPTED GOVERNOR

Do you know someone who is passionate about our future generations? Do they want to make difference to young people? Would they like to develop their own skills? Do they have some time to give to our wonderful community? Have they ever thought about becoming a school governor.....?

We invite them to apply for an exciting opportunity to join our Governing Body as a co-opted Governor.

A co-opted Governor is ideally someone who does not have a child at the school – maybe a grandparent or a neighbour?

The Governing Body of our school is responsible for ensuring that pupils receive high quality education and that the conduct of the school reflects this aim. We work with the Headteacher and Deputy Head on the strategic planning and management of the school considering and agreeing the aims and policies of the school. We also are involved in discussing and approving the targets for improvement, appointing the staff and setting and monitoring the budget.

If you wish to discuss the voluntary position further. Please contact Nikki Brigg Chair of Governors, via the school office on 02380 843162 or [adminoffice@orchardjun.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@orchardjun.hants.sch.uk).

## Volunteer Policy and Unacceptable Conduct - Parents and Visitors Policy

Two new school policies have been introduced by the Governors this year. Both these policies can be found on the school website. The first deals with the school expectations for volunteers helping in school. The second deals with the school expectations for the behaviour of parents and visitors to school and what it considers to be unreasonable conduct. Please take time to have a read of any policies which may relate to you.

## Get In Touch

If you have any questions or concerns on any topic, or want general information about the Governors, please get in touch with the school office and they will make sure your question is passed on.

Someone will then make contact with you to take things forwards appropriately.

It is really important that communication lines are open both ways so if there is anything concerning you, please do get in touch.