



Shepherds Down Governors Update

Hello and welcome to our 3rd and final School Governor Newsletter of this school term.

We have had a very busy year and more recently have been working together as a governing body on redefining our **Strategy** for the school. We will be looking to share this with you in September as we start the next school year.

Home/School Agreement

In preparation for September we've also been working hard on putting together a very useful document to share with parents giving you the information you need on what you can expect from the school.

We will also list the things we would expect in return; simple things like the policy for calling in sick if your child is unwell, who to contact for what etc etc. As part of this we are also looking to include useful information on how you can find and access services outside the school that might benefit your child and your family.

School Budgets

As mentioned in our last newsletter we have been finalising our budget for the forthcoming year and we will be telling you more about this too at the start of the school term in September.

Governors visiting Shepherds Down

Two of our Governors spent some time in school on 21st June as part of a planned and routine series of visits to observe evidence of implementation of the School Improvement Plan. The focus of this visit was to see how the new assessment system was playing out in school, specifically the use of the new "I can" statements. There was a lot of encouraging news. The visit showed how the teachers are currently juggling between the older P Level structures and the new "I can" statements.

It was a really good insight into the challenges facing the staff on a day to day basis, but it was also great to witness their positivity in working so hard to get this transition right. There is the prospect of a new app that may help collate and report on the levels being achieved, but this is still work in progress. The work being put in by all staff is to be applauded. There is still some tweaking to be done on the new system, but the framework is in place, and there was good evidence of increasing consistency across the school.

Shepherds Down Needs you

Ever wanted to be part of something?

We are still recruiting for Governors to join our team, if you are interested please contact Trudy in the school office for more information... we'd love to hear from you

Who can be a school governor?

You don't have to have children at the school. However, you do have to be over 18, and pass a formal check for your suitability. No specific qualifications are required but there are certain expectations of attendance and contribution.

How is the governing body made up?

There are a number of different kinds of Governor:

- Parent Governors - parents of children at the school
- Staff Governors - members of the school staff
- Authority Governors - nominated by the Local Authority
- Co-opted Governors - members of the local community (appointed by the rest of the governing body)

Fundraising for Shepherds Down

As Governors we work with Friends of Shepherds Down (FoSDA) and the local community to raise money for the school. Recently we had a Golf Day and Supper at The Royal Winchester Golf Club in Sarum Road in June, arranged by Mark Jenkins and Brian Marriott.

It was a fabulous sunny day of golf, with a wonderful supper afterwards. Local people gave very generously and we raised around £8,000.

We are extremely grateful to all of our supporters, thank you.

If you run a local business, could you consider donating to the school?

See you next term....

.....have a great summer, see you in September.