



Governor's Summer Newsletter

We have made it to the end of another year of schooling. Well done everyone. It is great for Governors to be in school, to be able to see the children develop and flourish and it continues to be a real privilege for us to be part of the outstanding community at The Gattons.

Here is an update on what the Governing Board have been up to this term to support the school.

Chair's update - How do governors monitor the school?



Lucas Cook
Chair of Governors

A key role for governors is to monitor what the school is doing to see how the school is progressing against the School Improvement Plan. We do this in several ways, such as:

- Visiting the school to talk to staff and pupils about the curriculum and other key areas, observe lessons and look at the school environment.
- Looking at school data, such as phonics and Key Stage 1 results.
- Speaking with senior leaders and the school's Link Advisors.
- Listening to views from parents and carers via surveys and at events.

What have we been involved in this term?

- All Governors have monitored their curriculum areas this term talking to subject leaders as well as the children - we have been really impressed with the knowledge and vocabulary they have retained during the year.
- We visited the new pond area during our Full Governing Body meeting and were so happy to see what an amazing addition it is. Our incredible outdoor spaces are hugely valuable to the children's learning and the addition of OPAL has been an enormous success.
- We have been involved in several local authority visits looking at the progress we have made this year with behaviour and the curriculum, which have all been very positive.
- We have been involved in a safeguarding audit carried out by the local authority, which again was positive.
- We are still recruiting and hope to fill our vacancies soon.
- Governors have attended training in the areas of getting started as a governor, school finances and gathering pupil voice.
- We have enjoyed coming to Sports Day, watching the leaver's performance and helping at the Summer Fayre!

Governor changes

Goodbye! After 5 years as staff governor, Mrs Shipman is stepping down as staff governor. She has been a hugely valuable member of the governing board and we are sad to see her leave the

board. Thank you to Julie for all your hard work.

New Vice-Chair: Alison Palmer is stepping down from the role of Vice-Chair. Thank you to Alison for her contributions to the Vice-Chair role over the last year. She will be remaining on the governing board, so we will not be losing her wealth of expertise and experience.

Staff goodbyes

This year we are saying goodbye to Mrs Poole in Eagles class, who is off to a new role at Hurst College; Mrs Howard Thomas who has successfully completed her teacher training apprenticeship this year and is off to teach her first class in a school in Crawley; Ms Pri Turrini who is off to Manorfield as an LSA and Mrs Sarah Jones who will not be full time next year but will continue as a supply teacher with us.

We would like to thank all of them for their hard work and commitment to the school. We wish them well in the future.

Thank you!

Finally, we wanted to take the opportunity to send a big thank you to:

- our senior leaders, Sarah and Ellie, for your excellent leadership over the past year,
- our staff for working so hard to support the children and each other,
- Friends of The Gattions School (FOGS) for another excellent year of fundraising,
- parents and carers for your support during the year,
- and the children for being so enthusiastic and hard working all year!

We would like to wish our Year 2 children every success as they start their new learning adventure at Southway. We are also excited to welcome our new Reception children and look forward to meeting all the new members of our school community.

All that remains is for us to wish you a wonderful summer break and we look forward to seeing you in September.

From all the Governors at The Gattions.