



Governor's Winter Newsletter

As the end of the first term of this academic year approaches, we would like to congratulate our new children and staff for settling so quickly into our school community.

As Governors, we are here to support the school and work as a 'critical friend' to the Leadership Team. Our job is to work as a democratic team, helping the Headteacher to make decisions about the strategic development of The Gattons. We are all very proud to be able to be a part of such a wonderful school.

Who are the Governors?

The Governing Board is made up of 12 governors including the Headteacher, one Staff governor, two Parent Governors and seven Co-opted Governors (typically members of the local community). We also appoint associate governors to support the board and currently have two associate governors. We welcome a new parent governor to the team this year, Debbie McLean. Debbie has a child in year 1 and another child who will start in 2026. We are also in the process of filling our last vacancy and will hopefully be able to welcome a new governor very soon. Our governors come from a wide range of backgrounds, and all bring different experiences and skills to the Governing Board. We are also supported by a Clerk to Governors.



Lucas Cook
Co-opted and Chair



Alison Palmer
Co-opted



Sarah Gospel
Headteacher



Rosie Brickell
Co-opted



David Daly
Parent and Vice Chair



Paula Wills
Co-opted



Ellie Bennett
Associate Member



Rev. Jules Middleton
Associate Member



Debbie McLean
Parent



Anthony Vander Willigen
Co-opted



Abi Steele
Co-opted



Leila Grass
Staff Governor



Vacancy
LA Governor



Rupert Grass
Co-opted

You can find out more about us via the Governor profiles available in the [About the Governors](#) section of the website. Amongst the Governors we have a guitar teacher, a STEM ambassador, and a children's therapist. Two Governors currently have a child at the school and five have older children who used to attend The Gattons.

What is the role of a Governor?

Governors are like a Board of Directors and they make strategic decisions about how the school is run. The 3 main roles of school governors are:

- Setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

The Governing Board is not responsible for the day-to-day running of the school; this is the responsibility of the Headteacher.

What have we been doing this term?

- Full Governing Board meetings are held four times per year, with two in the autumn term. In September, we agreed our roles for the year. At our November meeting, we focused on the School Improvement Plan and how we can support the school in implementing it.
- Committee meetings are held once per term. We have three committees: Staffing and Pupils, Resources, and Community Links. [Find out more about what each committee does.](#)
- Governors have been in contact with the subject leaders to find out more about their action plans for each subject this year. This often involves Governor Visits to the school so the children may see Governors in class.
- Our Chair, Lucas, meets with Sarah our Headteacher on a regular basis, as well as teaching ukulele in Year 2. Our Headteacher Performance Review Panel met with Sarah in December to set her objectives for the year.
- Lucas and David met with Helen Smith; our Local Authority Link Advisor who came for her termly visit. She was impressed with the learning that she saw on her learning walk in school and agreed with our judgement that we are a good school.
- We will be reviewing our skills and experience as part of our annual skills audit and identifying suitable training for us to attend to develop our skills.
- You may have met some of us at Parents Evenings - we were the friendly faces opening the door for you. When we are in school you can recognise us by our orange Governor lanyards.

All that remains is for us to wish you a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy your holidays and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

