

Welcome to the Hawthorns Primary School Governors' Newsletter 2018

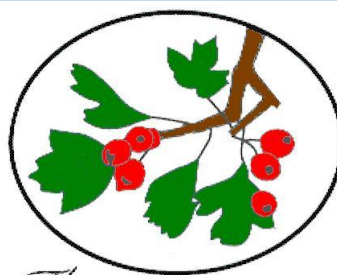
Another academic year has almost come to an end for Hawthorns, and for me, my eighth year as a Governor has flown by.

This year I took on the role of Chair of Governors, taking over from Chris Shaw who had done the most fantastic job over the years. Quite an act to follow!

Thanks to Chris for making my move into the role so straightforward.

I also remain as Chair of the Sites and Buildings / Health and Safety committee. We meet each term to do a Health and Safety Audit of the grounds and buildings during school hours, after which we prepare a statement of priorities to be reported to the full Governing Body. We also have termly meetings in the evening where our agendas will include reviewing and agreeing all policies, approving the schools' risk assessments, ensuring that fire and lockdown drills are carried out and observed and making sure that the Schools Health and Safety Policy with due regards to the Wokingham Borough Council guidelines and all relevant regulations is effectively implemented. If we have money in the school budget for the grounds and buildings, (I am sure you all know funding has been a bone of contention this year!) we prioritise as a committee how best to spend it. Needless to say, we have not had many decisions to make this year!

For the Governors it is not all about meetings and protocol. We all thoroughly enjoy going into school



The
**Hawthorns
Primary School**

whenever we can. It is a joy to see the children so happy in their work and play. Our Governors day in February sees us taking the school assemblies, visiting our adopted classes and enjoying lunch with the children before having an afternoon of learning ourselves, in the form of a presentation/ training session from an educational expert. We enjoy helping out at Sports events, after school activities, the library, school trips and I was lucky this year to once again join the Year 6 children on their residential trip to the Isle of Wight. What a fabulous week that was. The sun shone, not one drop of rain, the children loved the activities and everyone came home happy and tired!

As a team, we are always more than happy to help out the hardworking PTA. At the Summer Fair running the BBQ and the Christmas Fair serving up the festive fayre. Thanks to the PTA for yet another year of amazing fundraising.

In the autumn term, we said farewell to Sarah Izquierdo, who had been our longstanding Clerk to the Governors. We were very sad to see her go, but of course, she is still working in school so it wasn't a complete goodbye! Her knowledge of 'Governance' was amazing. A huge thank you from all of us for her hard work, for always organising us and pointing us in the right direction!

G o v e r n o r s ' N e w s l e t t e r 2 0 1 8

We are lucky and very happy to have found Pippa West to step into Sarah's shoes, which she has done very quickly and ably. We look forward to working with Pippa over the coming years.

We sadly say farewell to Mrs Marina Turner who is retiring at the end of this term after 20 years at the Hawthorns. She leaves with our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for a very happy retirement.

Thank you to all my fellow Governors for their commitment and enthusiasm this year.

Sadly, we are about to say farewell to our two longest standing Governors, Rosie Beech and Ian Severn, who have finally decided to hang up their lanyards, having served on the Governing body for 16 and 20 years respectively. I could, as you can imagine, write pages about what they have done for the school over the years and how much their expertise and presence has been valued and appreciated. With this in mind, thank you both so so much, you will be missed. We wish Ian and his wife every happiness as they move to Wales to be closer to their two daughters and two beautiful baby grand daughters!

Hawthorns continues to be an excellent school. A huge thank you to each and every member of staff for your work with the children. Enjoy the Summer holidays!

Judith Shepherd
(Chair of Governors and Chair of Sites and Buildings)



Emma Kerr
Vice Chair

My term as a parent governor has flown by, and November will see the end of my 4 years! As with previous years, the highlight is always spending time in school with the children, seeing them grow as they move up through the school.

As council services continue to reduce, a lot of time this year has been spent looking at Academy options for our school. This work will continue into the new school year, to ensure we achieve the best possible for all Hawthorns pupils, current and future.

It has been another very tough year for the school in terms of balancing budgets, and some very tough decisions have had to be made in terms of cancelling trips when there is a significant deficit in voluntary contributions. This is such a shame for the children involved but unfortunately, the school can no longer fund the gap. Despite this, the team at Hawthorns continue to work tirelessly to do the very best for our children with the very limited funds they have available to them, and I'd like to thank them all for this.

As Maths governor, it was lovely having the opportunity to talk to children about their thoughts on the Maths and its importance, when we completed a subject-learning walk in the spring term. Thanks to Mrs Hall for doing such a fantastic job!

Finally I'd like to wish the current year 6 group, every success as they move on to their chosen Secondary schools in September, and I'm very much looking forward to their end of year performance!



Sarah Mapleston
Co-opted governor

My name is Miss Mapleston and I am a co-opted governor as well as being a full time Year 4 teacher in KS2. I was appointed on the 1st September 2017 into my governor role. I currently attend the Sites & Buildings committee as well as the full governing body meetings. This year I have been given the opportunity to spend time with my adopted class, 5AP, during Governor's day. This was enjoyable as I could see the progress that they have been making this year.

As I work in school, I have a valued interest into the workings of the school and enjoy making valuable contributions during discussions.





Revd. Patrick Mukholi.
Co-opted governor

I am really grateful for the way fellow Governors, Teachers and Parents have supported my Family and I when my wife Helen was hospitalised. We thank God for every word of empathy, prayer and encouragement.

I relish service to the Children, Teachers and Parents as a Governor and will continue to avail myself as much as I can, when needed. Even as we envisage the Academy system my heart is more local, and I look forward to focussing solely on Hawthorns.

Elizabeth Bridgeman
Co-opted governor

Well another year has passed. My focus this year, alongside Mrs Kerton and Mrs Kerr, has been looking forward to the creation of a Multi Academy Trust with local schools to secure our future whilst maintaining our ethos and individuality. During the 2018/19 school year, we hope to start the consultation process with parents and staff. However, please be patient as the decisions leading up to the consultation need to be carefully made.

I have also been attending the Parent Forum that enables parents to put forward their views and often give constructive ideas about a variety of issues affecting their children. The ideas suggested and support given are an essential element of us all working together for the benefit of the

children so a big thank you to all the classroom representatives for giving up their time.

Of course, another thank you must go to the PTA who give up so much time to raise funds for us. The Governors are able to help them by providing helpers for the BBQ at the Summer Fair and Christmas food in the dining room at the Christmas Fair. Both are events that Governors and their spouses look forward to.

During this time of such harsh budget constraints, the staff deserve a round of applause for their hard work and dedication and their creative approaches to maintaining and developing learning experiences for our children.

And lastly, I would like to say how proud we are of our children and well done to them for all their fantastic achievements. I am looking forward to the Year 6 production of Alice in Wonderland and a massive well done to Year 4 for their amazing Africa production - so much creativity and talent.

Nicola Carr
Parent Governor

As a new parent governor, I've spent the last year learning about the workings of our school. I sit on the Sites and Buildings Committee and the Teaching and Learning Committee. I've thoroughly enjoyed supporting our pupils with their extra circular sporting activities such as cross-country and athletics. They are truly a talented bunch. I look forward to helping out with the Year 6 Mock Job Interviews as I did last year and will be cooking up a storm, well a BBQ, at this years' Summer Fair.



Dawn Wojcik
Co-opted staff governor

Hello to all pupils, parents and families.

This is now my 3rd year as co-opted governor. It has been another busy year at Hawthorns. I am still enjoying my role as TA in Year 2 and am kept ever busy with my duties as governor. I am still serving on both the Sites and Buildings and the Learning and Teaching committees.

We are currently working hard with the GDPR and travel plan for the school. There have been challenges this year as we strive to make the most out of our limited budget, explore the possibilities open to us in the future and ensure the school remains a good school.



I was thrilled to be part of helping our school remain in the good category according to OFSTED and we had a fantastic report from them. I am very proud of how the staff, pupils and governors rose to the occasion and showed OFSTED that we deserve that status.

I am now class governor to 1AF and will continue to pop in for little visits as and when my work hours permit.

There have been the usual events to be involved in over the last year such as the Christmas Fair, Governors Day and recently the whole school picnic to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

I have just returned from the Year 6 residential trip to Little Canada on the Isle of Wight. We had a wonderful time and the children were fantastic ambassadors for our school and challenged themselves physically as well as mentally.

Next up is the summer fair at the end of June and I look forward to saying 'hi' to as many of you as possible as we prepare and serve the barbecue food as is customary each year.

Have a super end of term and looking forward to Autumn term 2018.

Dozie Nnabuife

(Co-opted Governor, Chair of Teaching and Learning committee, Safeguarding Governor, Science Governor)

The last academic year was another interesting and eventful one. I continued to attend the learning and teaching, finance and building committee meetings. One of the important highlights was the OFSTED visit to the school.

I had wonderful times during the school fairs- summer fair where with rest of the governors, we managed the BBQ section, being an outdoor event and the kitchen during the Christmas fair. The governing council thought best as usual to support the PTA in these events to raise money for the school.

I continued to volunteer and run the Imagineering club with other group of volunteers from National Grid for year 6 pupils. This has continued to be an engaging and exciting club for me and I hope for Year 6 pupils too.

I attended several training courses conducted by governor services, Wokingham borough council to update my knowledge and skills.

As part of the governor's day, during the school assembly, we talked to the children on our career ambitions while growing up and what we ended up doing. This was to fit in with 'dreams and goals' aspirations. I then spent the rest of the day with my adopted class, 4SM.

I had a safeguarding audit with senior designated leads as part of ensuring that the right policies are in place for safeguarding.

I look forward to the rest of the academic year and continuing to contribute to ensure the school realise its vision.





Rosie Beech
SEND Governor

It has been a busy year for Governors with important decisions to be made and data to get to grips with. However, being a Governor is not without its pleasurable moments.

As the SEND Governor, I knew from my meetings with Julia Allott what an efficient and friendly SENDCo she had been and that we would have difficulty in finding someone to replace her but fortunately, Charlotte Irving proved to be a candidate who would take to the role with expertise and enthusiasm. I have also seen how the whole staff organise their work to take account of children with special needs.

At the start of the year, I was Literacy Governor so I observed some lessons on boys' writing and a phonics session in Early years, with some careful focusing of the content of the lesson.

Governors are also invited to help with other activities, and I have monitored SATS, done some reading with Year 6 and helped with their creative Stocking Day!

In September, we had a new Library computer system installed and despite a number of teething problems, we seem to have it working for us now.





Ian Severn

(Co-opted Governor, ICT and e-Safety Governor)

This is my final report as I end my 20th Year as the ICT Governor at The Hawthorns Primary School. I have seen many changes in the time - we started with BBC Micros and then moved on to using old second hand Desktop machines lovingly installed by some very enthusiastic parents. We eventually acquired 45 brand new PCs and 2 ICT Suites.

The PTA over the years have been very supportive by ensuring that all classrooms now have an interactive smart screen. The major change to our IT environment is the introduction of a wireless network and some hand held devices.

I hope that my successors will find a way of introducing more mobile devices into the classroom. Children in the Early Years are coming into school with 'touch screen' skills and we need to ensure that the most appropriate devices are available in school that will help with their educational development.

The IT services in the school have been well looked after by Colette Burgess our very able IT Technician for the past 17 years and without her skills we would not be as far advanced as we are.

We are now embracing social media with the recent introduction of our very own [Hawthorns Facebook page](#).

We continue to be concerned about the e-Safety of the children - whilst we are very conscientious in school to ensure that the children have safe access to the Internet - we hope that this is true when they are at home where YOU as parents and guardians have overall control of their IT environment?

A big thank you to all the PTA members (and associates) who work so hard to raise funds for the school by running such great events. An extra big thank you to those members who are leaving this year as their children move on from Hawthorns. Many of them have been on the PTA for a number of years and their sterling work is very much appreciated by all the Governors and school staff.

The School Governors enjoyed meeting you at the Open Afternoon on 5th July!

We would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone who works so hard for the benefit of the children at The Hawthorns Primary School, especially the Senior Leadership Team, teaching staff, non-teaching staff, office staff, the Site Manager, lunchtime controllers, kitchen staff and the PTA.

