

# Governors' Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

This term we have an extra newsletter for you as we wanted to share some fantastic news from our most recent Hertfordshire Improvement Partner visit, introduce our new associate members and share the Parent Survey Action Plan.

Hertfordshire Improvement Partner, Deborah Godbold said

***"The school is outstanding in all key aspects of their work."***

**We would like to thank Mrs Roberts and all of the staff for their hard work and for making Chorleywood Primary School the fantastic place it is for our children!**

So for a second time this term, I would like to wish everyone a restful Easter break.

Simone Tyson (Chair of Governors)

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 Deborah Godbold visited for our Joint Annual Review Visit (JARV). Every classroom was visited, with a focus on Reading linked to the school development plan. The school was assessed against the current Ofsted Outstanding Criteria. Extracts from the report are shown below and to the right.



*"It is very evident from displays and photos around the school that reading has a high profile....*

*Across the school pupils were **motivated readers**, who were able to make links in their learning and links across books they had read. They were able to gather evidence from texts to justify their answers and opinions.... Reading data has not yet been collected for the spring term but the thinking, talk and writing, about reading, observed during the learning walk indicates that **many pupils are attaining well above age related expectations***

*The school is making **very good progress with this priority**"*

## JARV Feedback

### Effectiveness of leadership and management

*"Leaders and governors have created and embedded an honest culture of self-evaluation that enables pupils and staff to excel. They are resolutely committed to setting high expectations for the conduct of pupils and staff. Relationships between staff and pupils are exemplary."*

### Quality of teaching, learning and assessment

*"Teachers demonstrate deep knowledge and understanding of the subjects they teach; this enables pupils to deepen their thinking and make links between subjects...Teachers are determined that pupils achieve well."*

### Personal development, behaviour and welfare

*"Pupils are confident, self-assured learners. Their excellent attitudes to learning have a strong, positive impact on their progress... They are proud of their achievements and of their school."*

### Outcomes for pupils

*"In key stages 1 and 2, current pupils are making substantial and sustained progress developing excellent knowledge and skills considering their different starting points."*

**You can contact the Governing Board via the School Office**

# Who are your Governing Board?

As we have seen some changes in the Governing board over the last year we wanted to share some additional information about the Governing Board members so that you can get to know us a bit better and put some names to faces.



**Rebecca Roberts**

Head Teacher

Rebecca was appointed Head teacher at Chorleywood Primary School in February 2010. Prior to this she taught in central High Wycombe for fourteen years becoming a Deputy Head five years into her career. She Lead in literacy and Special Educational Needs for 10 years, (an area that she is very passionate about). She obtained her National Professional Qualification of Headship in 2003 and had her family prior to embarking on a headship position. In September 2014 she became a Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP) for Herts for Learning. This involves monitoring the performance of several local schools. She is also a Hertfordshire Professional Partner (HPP) mentoring newly appointed Head teachers.

Rebecca is also on the governing board at her children's school.



**Simone Tyson**

Chair of Governors'

Simone is a parent with children at Chorleywood Primary School. She is a qualified chartered accountant having worked in accounting practice, management accounting, financial strategy and planning in the financial services industry before starting a family.

Simone's primary role is caring for her young family although she now works freelance and is involved in a number of community based roles including the local Chorleywood Mums group.



**Martin Trevett**

Vice-Chair of Governors'

Martin is self employed, running his own electrical contracting business in Chorleywood and the surrounding areas.

In 1986 he was elected as a councillor for Chorleywood West on Three Rivers District Council, and he is currently the Executive member for the Environment and is also on Chorleywood Parish Council.



**Heather Harris**

Chair of Personnel & Pay

Heather has worked all of her working life as a primary teacher, progressing through "the ranks" to deputy headship and then headship. She has been head of 3 schools- one in Watford and 2 in Harrow.

Heather's headship role spanned 20 years until she decided to leave full time work in August 2012. Now she works part time as an educational consultant



**Nitesh Patel**  
Chair Finance & Premises

Nitesh is a qualified actuary and has spent most of his career working for actuarial consultants such as Aon and Ernst & Young. He has recently moved to an insurance syndicate who operate within the Lloyd's of London insurance market.

Nitesh has children at Chorleywood Primary school



**Jane Mansour**  
Chair School Improvement

Jane has three children at the school, they are in Reception and Years 3 and 5.

Jane works in policy and research, specialising in child poverty, unemployment/labour market programmes, adult skills and building networks. She and her family moved back to the UK from the US last year.



**Ashley Rhodes**  
Elected Parent Governor

Ash currently works as Head of customer data at Tui, prior to this he has worked for companies like John Lewis Partnership, Deloitte (Technology and Analytics practice), Dunnhumby - a Tesco owned analytics and marketing company.

His career has centred around customer analytics, marketing and data management.



**Marina Perianez**  
Link Governor for Special Educational Needs

Marina has a background within special educational needs and joins us as an independent member of the Chorleywood community.

Marina is a special needs consultant, Spanish teacher and runs her own business. She also has experience in leadership and Inclusion in several educational environments, including schools and support services. She is very enthusiastic and passionate about education as well as artistic approaches to development.



**Corinne Lewis**  
Elected Staff Governor

Corinne is the Reception class teacher and lead for early years. She joined Chorleywood Primary school in September 2014. It is her 5th year of teaching and is looking forward to working as part of the governing body to further her appreciation of different inputs in to school life.

**Pete Adi**  
Co-opted Governor

Pete is an economist and worked in consultancy for a number of years. He currently works in the public sector in an operational role with responsibilities for risk assessment/management, in-depth analysis and investigation. He has an interest in both volunteering and education and wanted to get involved in the local community.

**Angela Taylor**  
Co-opted Governor

Angela moved to Chorleywood around 3 years ago and is a qualified General and Paediatric nurse as well as holding an adult education teaching certificate and now works in a commercial role. Angela has been a school governor in the past. She has been involved in organizing fund raising activities and overseeing building and expansion projects.

**Open (Co-opted)**

We currently have one open Co-opted position which we are looking for a member of the community to fill.  
  
A candidate has expressed an interest in the position which therefore may be filled at the start of the next academic year if we are not able to fill it before.

**Associate Members**



**Michelle Comber**  
School Business Manager

Michelle took over as the school business manager in September 2015. Prior to this she worked within the school office working alongside the previous business manager. She has been doing professional accountancy training and is currently about to commence her ACCA exams.

**Derek Frankland**

Derek is one of our long standing members of the Governing Board. He has been on the Governing Board for over 20 years. He is currently retired and is a grandfather of children at Chorleywood Primary School. He worked as a Head Teacher in the local area for many years and then went on to become a local councillor before his retirement.

**Samantha Evans**  
Assessment Outcome Link

Samantha has a background as a town and property planning consultant and then went on to do a PGCE and trained as a secondary school geography teacher. She is familiar with educational monitoring and is very happy looking at data analysis.

**Lindsey Archer**  
Link Governor

Lindsey has a background originally in graphic design and more recently has done quite a lot of work with children with special needs (Physical disabilities, deaf children and young people and also support of those with special educational needs).

# Parent Voice November 2015: Action Plan

The November 2015 Parent Voice survey was overwhelmingly positive, an overview of the results were fed back last term and can be seen on our website.

The feedback box at the end of the survey gave you a chance to tell us more about what you like about the school, and to raise questions and concerns. Most of the comments were really positive. It was heartening to see the number of parents that commented on the school being **nurturing, friendly, positive** and **inclusive**. There was also feedback on the **support and commitment of the teachers**, and the **excellent relationship between staff and children**. The **fantastic work of the PTA** was also recognised, and several parents wrote of their **pride in being part of the school**.

One parent liked that **“the school continually wants to improve”**. This Action Plan has been developed by the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors in response to the comments made on the survey.

## 1. ACTION TAKEN AND COMPLETED

ISSUE	Number of comments	ACTION/RESPONSE
More communication about class activity please	4	Pupils now write to their parents each half-term sharing topics and targets
Not enough notice for events	3	Staff agree and are trying to give more notice where possible
Too many emails <i>(note: more parents were positive about comms)</i>	2	Emails from School Comms have been analysed, messages grouped where possible
Anti-bullying procedures need review	1	This was undertaken by a parent work group and new policy sent out
Parents Evening overruns	1	Staff reminded to enforce time limits. Parents reminded to book an additional slot at different time if more time needed.

## 2. ACTION ONGOING

ISSUE	Number of comments	ACTION/RESPONSE
School photos not very good	1	Alternative providers are being sourced
More focus on fun & social skills please <i>(note: other parents commented on the fun environment at school)</i>	1	The Behaviour for Learning characteristics are focused on life skills – they underpin our approach. Teachers work hard to make learning fun – including trips and activities to enrich learning
More attention on music in lessons and assembly please	1	All classes follow the National Curriculum. Wider opportunities for KS2 through Herts Music Service. The school has a choir and a concert band. Pupils can have music lessons. Music forms a part of assemblies on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.
No response to complaint about a shouty teacher	1	Every parental concern is addressed. A reminder has been given to all staff. If concerns remain please raise with Mrs Roberts.

### 3. ACTION ABOUT TO HAPPEN

ISSUE	Number of comments	ACTION/RESPONSE
There is too much homework	2	A parent working group will be set up to review the home learning policy.

### 4. ACTION IS BEYOND SCOPE OF THE SCHOOL

ISSUE	Number of comments	ACTION/RESPONSE
School work is getting harder	1	This is a national issue and the school cannot change the policy.
More flexibility with term time holidays	1	This is a national issue and the school cannot change the policy.

### 5. NO ACTION TO BE TAKEN

ISSUE	Number of comments	ACTION/RESPONSE
No sweets for birthdays	1	We are not going to change this policy.
Can working parents have teachers email addresses as cannot connect at drop-off/pick-up?	1	Direct emails are not appropriate but please do send emails via the office – put the teacher's name in the subject line and they will be forwarded.
Can parent workshops be held on a Friday? At different times?	1	Workshops are arranged to cause minimal disruption to the classes of the teachers leading them, usually in PPA time. Several staff do not work on Fridays.
Can parents have a vote on how PTA funds are spent?	1	Yes – they already do! This is decided at the AGM, and all parents are invited to attend
Can PPA be covered by qualified teachers only?	1	DfE guidelines state that PPA cover does not have to be undertaken by a qualified teacher. PPA is only covered by competent staff that ensure consistency.
Can children's work be put online so we can see it from home?	1	This isn't practical. There are opportunities to look at your children's books at parent's evenings, and you can borrow them overnight if you would like more time to review them. All parents are welcome to arrange a time to come in and look at their child's work.