



# DOWNVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

November 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Apologies for the belated welcome to a new school year and a warm welcome to all our new families throughout the school. Hopefully you have all settled into the new term, I cannot believe we have had half term already and Christmas is just around the corner!

Governors said a very sad farewell at the end of August to Mrs Val Morris who has been our Local Authority Governor for just over 8 years now. Val has been a great asset to the Governing Body including taking on the role of Vice Chair. On behalf of everyone at Downview School I would like to thank her for all her hard work and support. We will surely miss her.

For those new to Downview I would like to introduce ourselves and tell you a little about what we do. Last year, the Governing Body was made up as follows:

Chair of Governors	Mrs Sue Hawthorn (Co-opted)
Head Teacher	Mrs Mandy Williams (Staff)
Staff Governors	Mrs Faye Hawkins, Mrs Isabel Hellyer and Mrs Jess Twine
Parent Governors	Mr Owen Costen, Mrs Laura Farrant
Co-Opted Governors	Mr Pete Ansell, Mrs Hazel Jones and Mrs Emma Priest
Local Authority Governor	Mrs Val Morris
Secretary to Governors	Mrs Janet Ramsdale

## ***What do the Governors actually do?***

Governors are meant to be (says the Department for Education) "critical friends". Governors "provide challenge and support". This sounds a bit abstract, so here is what governors actually do.

All Governors meet twice a term, at Full Governing Body (FGB) Meetings. There are smaller meetings where five or six governors meet to talk about a part of the work, these Committee meetings take place once/twice a term (depending on the Committee). The areas of work are:

- ❖ Learning and teaching; the children's progress, their attainment and their work
- ❖ The well-being of all the children and all the staff
- ❖ Land and buildings, and the health and safety of everyone in the school
- ❖ And, as you would expect, the finances of the school.

Governors visit lessons, so that we can see the excellent learning and teaching first hand. Governors meet with and listen to the children, who tell us what is best about Downview, and what they would like to improve. Every year we plan a focus for our formal class visits based on the School Improvement Plan and this year's focus is writing with a specific focus on GDS (Greater Depth at the Expected Standard).

As Governors, we try to remember, all the time, that our work should be focused on the children and their learning.

## School Improvement Plan

All schools are required to produce on an annual basis a School Improvement Plan and this is done at the beginning of September. Governors regularly monitor this plan.



The Priorities in this year's plan are:

- ◇ **Maths** - Embedding Mastery and meeting the needs of rapid graspers.
- ◇ **Writing** -Mastery of raised expectations and GDS
- ◇ **Reading** - GDS
- ◇ **The wider curriculum**

## Contacting Governors

The Governors of Downview School firmly believe part of the success of our school is the partnership that is built between parents and the school; therefore, the Governors are eager to receive your views. We recognise the children clearly benefit from what the school offers, their happiness is paramount to us, so if you have any queries or questions for governors please do not hesitate to contact me via the school. Letters to the Governing Body should be addressed to Mrs. Sue Hawthorn (Chair) and delivered to the school office.



Governors are always available at Parents Evening, just tick the box stating that you would like to meet us and we will happily meet with you.

**Whilst we welcome and value your comments, any initial comments, queries, concerns or complaints and issues relating to the day to day running of the school should, in the first instance, be referred to the class teacher or to Mrs Williams, Headteacher**

## Governors Wish Lists

As you will all be well aware of the difficult financial situation for schools around the country and West Sussex in particular under the Worthless Campaign. The essentials for children are provided in the classrooms, but each year the resources that we do have are needing to be stretched further, with no additional money to purchase extra resources.

Many schools have set up wish lists which include a range of items. The idea is that the lists are populated with the extra items for the coming term/year that will enhance the children's learning experience and environment. The governors have set up an Amazon Wish List for each year group plus the Woodland classroom. These lists can be purchased from by individuals or local businesses who wish to support the school. Items can be sent directly to the school. The children, staff and governors would appreciate any purchases you are able to make. A separate letter detailing how parents and local business can help will be distributed soon.

Kind regards

*S. Hawthorn*

Mrs Sue Hawthorn  
Chair of Governors