



Welcome to the Winter 2017 Governors Newsletter

As we head up to the Christmas break, the Sheering School Governors thought it would be a good idea to share a newsletter with all parents and teaching staff to let you know how things are going, from a Governor's perspective of the school. And as well, of course, to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas!

Who are your governors?

Sheering C of E Primary school has a team of 10 Governors, including Mrs Brittain. The Governors have a responsibility to;

- set the aims and objectives for the school
- set the policies and targets for achieving those aims and objectives
- monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making
- be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher
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From left to right, Cheryl Bedford, Paul Newman, Lorna Brittain, Andy Kent, Anna Beck, Pamela Gaines, Gareth Maxwell, Rev Dawn Jewson, Tony Scott, Steve Townsend

The Governors recently visited the school for a Monitoring visit and spent the morning in Classrooms with the children, and even had a delicious school lunch!

Letter from the Chair of the Governors

Welcome to this winter 2017 issue of Key Stage, the Sheering School Governors' newsletter.

It's been a fantastic start to the school year – which we are nearly a third of the way through already. It's wonderful to see children working well in their new year groups, and those that have joined us this year, to have settled in so quickly.

This term has been very busy for the teachers and children with both a Governors monitoring visit and a Church of England Inspection – in the same week!

As ever the school looks to continually improve it's results and this year has been no exception, including 73% of Year 6 children reaching their expected levels in the SATs tests – above Essex and National averages. It is worth taking the time to look at the school results and other information that are freely available online here: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk>

The Governing Body has been working hard with the committee meetings, our termly governors' meeting and monitoring visits by individual governors. The teachers and children have also been working very hard over the term and it's good to be able to look forward to a few weeks break and to spend time with friends and family over the festive season (homework and 2018 preparations permitting!)

The Governors wish you all a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year

Best Wishes **Steve Townsend**

PTFA

Sheering School has a thriving Parents, Teachers and Friends Association that organises many of the events that you are familiar with, such as the Summer Fayre and Christmas Ball, as well as the School Disco and Fathers and Mothers Day shops.

The amazing work of the PTFA saw them raise over £6,000 in the last year, money which helps the school to buy new playground equipment, leaving bibles and gifts for the Year 6 children and most recently upgraded Digital Touch TV screens for some of the classrooms.

The volunteers that run the PTFA work very hard to achieve this and always welcome more help where it can be offered. Special thanks to Debbie Monk, Dot Taylor and Vera Muldoon, as well as many others, for making it all happen.

Joyous Nativity

Thank you to all the children and staff at school for the amazing Nativity play last week. The acting, singing and instrument playing really brought the Christmas story to life and made everyone feel really festive. Merry Christmas!



Staff Changes

Belated congratulations to Mrs Ansell on the arrival of little Arthur, we hope you have a great first Christmas together. We would also like to thank Mrs Uddin for moving to take the helm in Copeland in Mrs Ansell's absence and Mrs Balloqui for going full time in Durrington class. Plus a warm welcome to Mr Sackwild, who is coming in to help cover teaching staff planning time.

Be a Governor – We have a Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor at Sheering School. We're looking for a person to join the team and help make a positive contribution to the lives of the pupils. You'll be offered a warm welcome, induction training, and a mentor to help you get up to speed. For more detailed information about the role of a Governor go to the [National Governors Association](http://www.nationalgovernors.org.uk) website which has lots of useful insight. If you would like to apply or talk to a current governor about the role in the first instance send an email to Helen in the office: admin@sheering.essex.sch.uk

Pupil Premium – Reminder

Now that all reception and key stage 1 pupils get automatic free school meals, parents/carers need to be aware that the school receives an additional £1320 of funding for every child who would otherwise have been entitled to free school meals. This funding called Pupil Premium is available where a parent/carer claims one or more of the following:

- Universal Credit.
- Income Support or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of £16,190 or less.

If you think you may qualify or if your circumstances should change, you can talk to Mrs Brittain in confidence to check/apply for entitlement. For a small school like Sheering, every penny counts.