



### Updates to School Vision, Ethos and Values

The 4<sup>th</sup> January inset day was a busy one at Sheering School, the whole school team (teachers, LSA's, mid-day assistants, caretaker and governors) had a Vision, Ethos and Values training day. Mrs Brittain led the training session which focussed on updating the Vision, Ethos and Values now that two years have passed since Mrs Brittain started and we previously updated them.

Vision statements are hugely important to any organisation, and we feel lucky to have such an all-encompassing Vision statement which focuses on everybody achieving the best they can achieve. Pupils, Staff, Governors and Parents included!

We believe our values encompass the organisation that we want Sheering School to be and how our school community will work with one another. Sheering's TERRIFIC values have a Christian focus and the values have been shared with the whole school community including the St Mary's Church congregation. The updated Vision, Ethos and Values will be available on the school website.

### PTFA – Thank you

Once again we owe a huge thank you to the PTFA for all their hard work. Since the last Governors' newsletter they have organised a summer fete, two school discos, the tea towel sale and a Christmas Fayre. The events were really well attended and great fun for the children whilst raising over £2700 for the school fund. The money is being saved up and will be put towards buying much needed new blinds for the school hall to help with the sun glare during assemblies on sunny mornings and for outside seating/play equipment.

### Sheering introduces digital learning journals in Copeland class.

Mrs Ansell and the team in Copeland class have introduced the Tapestry Online Learning Journal system. Instead of doing lots of cutting, sticking and writing in paper learning journals, photos, videos and comments are uploaded to a website that parents, carers & grandparents can access from the internet or via mobile device apps. They can view, 'like' and add comments to the Journal. It's a huge step forward in home-school links and also allows a really effective way of capturing the school day from an EYFS goals perspective. Feedback from Parents has been great and it helps improve on a number of areas identified in the last OFSTED report.

### Letter from the Chair of the Governors

Welcome to this issue of Key Stage, the Sheering School Governors' newsletter. For 2016 we've re-vamped the look and feel of the newsletter so it matches the style of the school website. We hope you like the changes.

Since the last newsletter, the Board of Governors has been busy continuing to carry out monitoring visits. These visits are a key tool in assessing how the school is developing and working towards the School Development Plan, our values and vision. Since September governors have monitored Christian Distinctiveness, RE, Safeguarding, Lunchtime Provision, EYFS, Sports Premium and English. Our visits have highlighted that the whole school is working really hard to achieve all the steps of the current development plan.

It has therefore been a busy school year to date for the teaching staff. There have been key changes in the curriculum, and the methods of assessment. Alongside most schools we have chosen to undertake baseline assessments of the reception class. One initiative, Talk for Writing (T4W) which targets the development of the children's language and writing skills is being used throughout the school to great effect. In December, the whole school enjoyed a visit to watch Jack and the Beanstalk and T4W work produced following the pantomime was brilliant. Strange things also happened in school with magic beans and golden egg laying chickens appearing in classrooms which really sparked everyone's imagination.

Best Wishes *Linda Ainsworth*

## Sports Premium

Each year Sheering is provided with funds from the Governments Sports Premium fund. This academic year these funds have been used to provide new astro-turf for the Copeland class playground. A huge thank you to Mrs Ansell and her parents for working hard over the summer holidays to improve this play space. New sports kits have also been purchased for the netball team, as all team players know a new team kit makes all the difference in bringing a team together. With the remaining funds, plans are in place to improve the playground space outside the staff room, bringing in further astro-turf to provide additional all weather play space. We are hoping this will be in place for the new 2016/7 academic year.

## Welcome to new staff starters and goodbye and good luck to any staff leavers

Miss Clark has recently started as a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) in Durrington class. She is also doing a part time Open University teaching course with a view to becoming a teacher in the future. Sheering is a familiar surrounding for Miss Clark as she attended here when she was younger! Welcome back to Sheering.

We also employed a new Catering Manager in the kitchen during the winter term. We said goodbye to Mrs Taylor and handed a warm welcome to Mrs Berni who has settled straight in and delivered some improvements in the lunchtime provision.

## 200 years of Sheering School

2016 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sheering school, Mrs Brittain, the staff, PTFA and the Governors are starting to prepare celebrations for this important milestone. You'll start to see more information on this as we head through the spring term.

## Amazon Associates programme

Sheering School is a participant in the Amazon EU Associates programme, an affiliate advertising programme designed to provide a means for members to earn referral fees

Any purchases made having followed the appropriate Amazon link will earn the school a referral fee and support the provision of high quality learning resources. Now it gets complicated...the school website provider does not allow for this type of referral link, so the Amazon link that allows the school to receive referral fees can be found at the bottom of the [Sheering Village homepage](#).

## Welcome Governing Newbies

During the Autumn Term two new Governors joined the board.

### Anna Beck – English and Link Governor

Hello, I am Anna. Mum to 4 year old Lucy (a new starter in Copeland class last September) and married to Mike. I am a Chartered Accountant but after 16 years working in Finance I am currently taking a bit of a career break and I thought a great way to use my free time was to get involved at Sheering School as a governor and offer my skills and support. Sheering is such a friendly and inclusive school where learning is made fun. I really want to help maintain that atmosphere and enable everyone at Sheering to achieve their best!

*Anna*

### Gareth Maxwell – EYFS Governor

Hello! I'm Gareth and I'm a Chartered Mechanical Engineer with 15 years' experience developing next generation engines at Ford Motor Company. I'm married to Lisa and we have two children, Will (4 and in Copeland) and Esmé (2). I became a Governor to give something back to the community, using some of the skills I've learnt in my career to make a difference at Sheering. I'm particularly interested in preparing our next generation for the opportunities that are developing in our region and all along the M11 corridor. *Gareth*

## 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](#) website which has lots of useful insight. If you would like to apply or talk to a current governor about the role in more detail, in the first instance send an email to Helen in the office:

<mailto:admin@sheering.essex.sch.uk>