

Governor update

Summer Term 2018

Chair of Governors — Vic Parker

What a year it's been! The Governing Body spent a good amount of time at our recent meeting looking back on the last school year. For me, I saw it as a year of transition. Starting the year with new teachers in Maple, Rowan and Willow, a different teacher in Beech, an Acting Head Teacher for one term following the loss of an experienced & successful Head Teacher who had been at Sparsholt for over three years. We also went through 2 rounds of Head Teacher recruitment before we successfully confirmed Mrs Laver in role.

We reflected on the School Improvement Plan - whether the priorities that were set last Aug/Sept were the right ones and we reviewed the Early Years results as well as the Year 2 & Year 6 SAT's results that Mrs Laver communicated last Friday.

Our conclusions? That despite this transitioning year, Sparsholt School has outperformed our expectations in many areas. Our children are excelling in Music & Sport (National Lacrosse Finals, County Athletics Finalists, TriGolf Runners Up) and the SAT's results are some of the best in the local area. During a visit last Friday, Andy Yeoman, our Primary Phase Inspector shared that he believes the school is going from strength to strength and that our Teachers work together exceptionally well with such an amazing sense of 'team'.

Sparsholt School is an ambitious school and so we believe there is more we can do.

Mrs Laver and her leadership team have already identified the School Improvement Priorities for the next school year (18/19) and despite our ambition, our budgetary pressures continue. I do believe however that we have the right leadership & staffing team, the right Governors and the right processes in place to accelerate our progress against these priorities.

I have also been in a reflective mood as I hang up my Chair of Governors "hat" after five years. I've reflected on how much I've learnt, from the other Governors and our school Leadership Team, how challenging it has been but what an honour! I "leave" knowing that Sparsholt School is a great school and we, as parents are very fortunate. This is a view validated by County Inspectors, an incredibly professional & experienced Governing Body and many of our parents.

I am handing over my role as chair to Kathy Bamber, who has already been a governor for X years. Her experience in this role, together with her understanding of education and passion for Sparsholt School means that we will all benefit from everything she brings to the role.

As we look ahead, I would love to see our community pulling together, supporting our leadership team as they deliver bigger outcomes for all our children, with less money and less time. Your personal support could make a huge difference. Thanks, Vic

Vic

Outstanding SAT's Results

Congratulations to staff and pupils for achieving such amazing results this year. We don't know the county comparison figures yet , but with a combined Key Stage 2 score of 86% against a national score of 64% - everyone involved should be suitably proud of themselves. Huge amounts of hard work went into achieving these results – Well Done All!

Goodbye.....and thank-you

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to 3 members of the Governors Team this year.

Vic Parker has been our chair for the last 5 years, and has been superb with her commitment, leadership and energy. Thanks for everything Vic, we will miss you.

Jeremy Bennett has been on the Curriculum Committee for the last 3 years, where his attention to detail and professionalism have been invaluable. Thank you Jeremy!

Jill Judge has been our Clerk for the last 10 years – the unsung hero of the Governing body. Minuting all meetings and keeping us all on track - we will all miss you hugely. Thank you!

Welcome !!!

We are delighted to welcome Kate Morey to the team of governors. Kate will be taking over from Jill as our clerk and will be responsible for minutes, and overall organisation. It is a crucial role and we are all thrilled that Kate has agreed to join us!

Would you like to be a governor?

Katy Cobbold

In Autumn, we will be recruiting for a new parent governor. More details will be released then – but over the summer, it may be worth thinking whether this could be for you?

No previous experience is required, as when you become a governor, you will attend a full day training course, and training will be continually provided when needed. All training is transferable to other areas of life.

Being a governor allows you to gain a variety of new skills and develop the ones you already have. It doesn't matter if you don't think your career experience – or lack of – is relevant to education. Governing bodies need people from all backgrounds who can bring knowledge, thoughts and enthusiasm to the school.

Becoming governor can bring you great personal and professional benefits – particularly if you've taken a career break to focus on your family. If you are able to demonstrate to future employers that you have remained committed to your own development, despite taking time out – this will boost your CV.

Many employers actively encourage their staff to take on a School Governor role as it broadens experience and shows a commitment to life outside the workplace. Some of our governors do not have children at the school and carry out the role purely for the satisfaction of helping the community as well as to continually learn new skills and keep up to date with changes in education.

As Sparsholt is a small school, being a governor is something that every family should consider getting involved in at some point during their child's time here.

Governors – Who we are



Kathy Bamber – Chair of Governors -Kathy is mum to Maisy, Yr 5 and Abby, who left laast year. With a background in education, Kathy has most recently worked at Sparsholt College heading up a number of departments



Helen Ley – This is Helens second stint as a governor at Sparsholt. Having been through the school with her son Thomas, she is now back with her son Patch, Yr 1. Helen works for Hampshire County Council Childrens Services in school place planning



Ceri Baber is mum to Olivia in Willow and brings invaluable health & safety experience from running her own Dentist practice. Ceri is on the Finance Committee and is responsible for Health and Safety matters



Katherine Edgecombe has 3 children at the school – Elsa Yr 5, Orla Yr 3 and Isabella Yr R. With a background in training and marketing, Kath is responsible for communications between Governors and Parents



Kate Morey is our newest recruit! Mum to Hattie, Yr R, and George who will join in a couple of years, Kate will be taking on the role of Clerk



By September, Katie will have 3 children at Sparsholt, as her youngest, Madelaine starts then. She also has Aubrey, Yr R and Charlotte, Yr 2. Katies background as HR Director in a number of settings is invaluable to us



Matt Stagg – a member of the Curriculum Committee, Matt has 3 children at the school and 2 to follow. Matt set up the hugely successful local scout group, works full time, and is married to Bonnie who is head of FOSS



Dan Parsons is our Head of Finance and Staffing. His children, Millie and Tom were both former pupils. Dan has a demanding job in the city and we are grateful for the time he gives to ensure we are financially viable



Sally Wesley. Sally is our foundation governor. Before retirement, Sally was a maths teacher. She is very involved in St Stephens Church, leading some services, and is also their treasurer



Reverend Jax – Responsible for 5 parish churches across the Downs Benefice, Reverend Jax still finds time to lead worship, be a governor and be a visible part of the childrens' lives at Sparsholt