

Meet the Governors

Adam Phillips My name is Adam Phillips and I am currently Chair of Governors for Thakeham Primary School. Both of my children attended Thakeham Primary School, very well equipped for their next adventures! In that time I had Primary-hand experience of the exceptional ethos and caring environment that staff, parents and children create. Of late, in particular, it has been fantastic to see the impressive and effective drive for improvement across and beyond the curriculum which our children all benefit from so much. It was this that motivated me to volunteer as a parent governor initially. As a board of Governors it is our great pleasure to work with such talented, able and motivated staff - Headteacher, teachers, teaching assistants, office and premises staff alike. A crucial part of our role is to enable them in any way we can to carry on providing the pupils and community with such a great, caring school and help them in their commitment to continuous improvement for all involved.



Sam Norton

I am proud to be Headteacher and Staff Governor at Thakeham Primary School leading a dedicated team of staff and governors to ensure the very best learning opportunities for each and every child. Our wonderful children, caring family ethos with strong parent and community support, really make Thakeham a very special place for our children to learn and grow. Becoming a primary school and relocating to our new site at Rock Road has been an exciting phase in the school's history which is facilitating even greater opportunities with improved facilities and resources on site supporting high quality teaching and learning.

One of the joys of working in a small school is getting to know the children each by name, ability and nature, our school just like every child within it, is truly unique!

Emma Hopkins

I am a Staff Governor and Senior Teacher at Thakeham Primary School. I have been teaching for twenty years and have held the position of Deputy Head and staff governor in another West Sussex school.

I joined Thakeham in 2013 as the PPA music specialist and have continued to develop music throughout the school. I am currently the year 5 / 6 teacher and I coordinate English, Maths and Music across the school. I am the Deputy Safeguarding Officer and work closely with the head teacher on assessment. I am passionate about enabling each and every member of our community to achieve their best and to enjoy their time spent learning. As Governor, I am able to work closely with a dedicated team who have the child at the centre of everything they do.

Judith James I have been working in Education for over 40 years and more recently been Headteacher of two schools in West Sussex. I have experience of working with Governing bodies to lead school improvement and make decisions to ensure the best possible education for the children. I have enjoyed leading and facilitating training courses for teachers and INSET days for staff, parents and governors. During my time working in schools, I have always enjoyed good working relationships with children, staff, parents, governors and all outside agencies. I have a passion for learning, especially in the Early Years and I currently work as an Associate Link Tutor at Chichester University, where I teach Art to the students and also mentor



students on their placements. Being a governor at Thakeham will enable me to support the head to realise her vision and continue the improvements she has successfully made so far.

Amanda Otto

I am the proud mum of Brooklyn and Bradley. We have lived in Thakeham for the past few years. Brook is currently at Thakeham and hopefully Bradley will also attend, hence, having an interest in the progression of the school now and in the years to come.



We live on the dairy farm in Thakeham village where my husband Calvin runs the herd of 220 pedigree Holsteins for the Binningtons.

I own a local embroidery, and printing company. I have had the privilege of embroidering school uniform. My company is based at home on the farm and this keeps me flexible being able to juggle the business and the children.

In the past I have worked as a supervisor at Homebase which included a number of different responsibilities including running the cash office.

I have a keen interest in the equine industry and studied equine nutrition at university amongst other equine qualifications. We like to travel when we get the time, and have done many trips to South-Africa in the past. We enjoy spending quality family time together wherever possible.

Cheryl Stockwell

I am a Parent Governor and have 2 children at Thakeham Primary School. I work from home as a Book-keeper and Credit Controller and prior to that had always worked within Accounts based roles with both multi-national companies and small businesses. I have a good understanding of Finance and Business Operations.

I have become a Governor as I feel I have the time and qualities needed to undertake such a role.



Gilly Hall

As well as being a proud mum to Maddie and Poppy, who both attend Thakeham Primary, I am an active musician. I play the bassoon and spend many weekends performing in orchestral and choral concerts. Having studied music at Oxford, I went on to be Head of Quality Assurance at ABRSM, an international music exam board. The team I worked with were responsible for the training and monitoring of over 700 examiners which was a pretty tall order at times. After having my second daughter, I left ABRSM and now work part-time in finance.



I am a passionate believer that children need the arts in their lives more than ever, and that nurturing creativity is so important - not only for their well-being but also for their ability to perform in all areas of life. Music in particular requires not only creativity but analytical and maths skills, the ability to really listen, cooperation, teamwork, perseverance and determination - all attributes which are so useful whatever path they choose to take.

I am delighted to be part of the team of Governors at Thakeham and look forward to ensuring that our children get the best possible start to their time in education.

Lucy Glenn

My name is Lucy Glenn, I have worked in West Sussex secondary schools for the past 10 years after studying both primary and secondary education, specialising in ICT and Computing at Chichester University. I currently work at Tanbridge House School as Leader of Computer Science and run a local network meeting for Primary Computing leads through Computing at School.



Paul Skelding

I have previously been a parent governor at my son's primary school, but he is now preparing for college so I wanted to find a new challenge that would complement my day job and allow me to give something back to the local community. I am both delighted and excited to join the governing body at Thakeham Primary school. The ethos of the school fits my own educational values and I am looking forward to supporting the school and governing body to fulfil its long term vision for the school.



Ruth Burton Russell

I am a secondary Maths teacher currently working with a range of abilities within middle years in a nearby school. In addition to this, I have been teaching swimming locally for nearly a decade now which has meant there are definitely a few familiar faces for me at Thakeham Primary School. I am hugely passionate about ensuring all students receive a good education and overall school experience and I was very taken by the school and its values and ethos when I came to visit last term. I am absolutely thrilled to be joining the Governing Body at Thakeham, especially at such an exciting time for the school and look forward to working with everyone in the years to come.

