

SHERINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

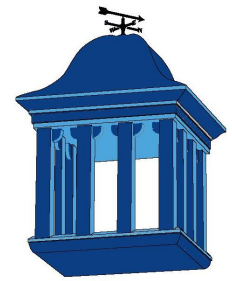
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Web: www.sheringtonprimary.co.uk

Head Teacher: Karen Dennett Deputy: Amanda Burnell SBM: Susie Healy



20th July 17

Hello from the Sherington school governors! You may have met some of us at our recent drop-in session, or responded to our surveys.

I'm writing as chair of the Sherington Governing Board to share some of what we've been doing over the last year, and in particular to provide some initial feedback on the outcome of the communications survey a few weeks back.

But first, a quick reminder...

Who are we and what do we do

The governing board represents the interests of the children, local community and wider public in the running of the school. School governors are a group of volunteers drawn from parents, staff and the local community. We work with the school and local authority to help secure the best possible education for all Sherington children.

Over the last few years the Department for Education have placed an increasing emphasis on the importance of governance, with a move from a stake-holder based "governing body" towards a more corporate skills and competency based "governing board" with increasing levels of responsibility and accountability. At Sherington we have worked hard to make sure we are meeting these new expectations. We have a strong and actively engaged governing body with a wide range of skills and experience – over the last few years we have recruited three new co-opted governors and one parent governor (you may remember seeing the letters about this).

Governing boards have a strategic role and are not involved in the day to day running of the school. We have three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the head teacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

An overview of the impact we have made in each of these areas this school year can be found on the governors page of the school website <http://sheringtonprimary.co.uk/school/governors/>, you can also find out more information about the governors here.

Engagement with parents and carers is a key part of delivering our core functions, and needs to include: sharing the schools vision, ensuring that stakeholder feedback informs our judgements on the school's effectiveness, and making sure parents understand how their children are progressing



Equalities Healthy Schools



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and how they can help. Improving engagement with parents and carers is a key focus area for us, as you can see from the recent surveys and the governors' drop-in session this term.

Governors Survey Feedback

An overview of the governors' survey results, together with answers to specific questions, is provided on the governors' webpage. The key message is that you would like to know more about what we do. We've had lots of positive feedback on the parents' drop-in session and will definitely run another one, we will also make sure our webpage is kept up to date. Updated posters will be up in the autumn term with new photos to provide greater visibility on who we all are.

Communications Survey feedback

Firstly a big thank you for your time – we had 51 responses to the survey, with extremely constructive feedback. Most people (75%) were positive about the current approaches to communication with parents/carers, and 80% of respondents felt that the content was useful and relevant. There was very positive feedback on the weekly and termly newsletters, and the use of SMS and email.

You told us that the following areas could be improved:

- **Timing:** more advanced notice of events, better use of school calendar on website
- **Communication channels:** clarity on purpose/relevance of information, review how information is communicated e.g. reliability of letters in bookbags, text messages to both parents
- **Learning:** more information about children's learning and development
- **Website:** lots of information but difficult to navigate, needs redesign.

A communications working group of governors and Mr O'Leary, the Assistant Head, met for the first time last week, and we have started putting together an action plan for next term. In fact, the last two items are areas the school leadership team has already been working on:

Feedback on learning: You will have noticed the new format for the end of year report. The "ladders at home" portal (laddersathome.co.uk) was also launched earlier this year as a way of clearly communicating what the end of year expectations are for each year group, together with resources to support children's learning. (Please contact the school office if you've lost your login details). The school will be seeking feedback on "ladders at home" next term.

Website: Our communications link governor Kelly Powell has been supporting the school in reviewing the website with our current service providers to improve the layout and navigation, your feedback is a key part of this process. We are really excited to let you know that we are working



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towards launching a Sherington App next term that will allow you to receive selected updates and information directly on your mobile devices.

We will provide a further update next term on how we are aiming to improve communications in response to your feedback.

In the meanwhile we would like to congratulate the Y2 and Y6 children and staff for the excellent SATs results, and the whole school for the celebration of learning throughout the year that we've seen in Arts Week, Science Week, school concerts, open mornings, parents' evenings and the fantastic school displays.

Have a great summer and see you in September.

Kate Parker (Chair) and the Sherington Governors.



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