



# Governor Newsletter

Term 6 – July 2015

## Bishops Down Primary School

*"Discovering and learning together"*

### A note from the Chair

Wow, the end of the school year already! We have seen quite a few changes during the past year both with staff and governors. I would like to thank all the staff and governors for their hard work over the past year in facing the challenges associated with these changes, the new curriculum and a new system for monitoring pupil progress. We have had a successful year and we are in a good position to continue this success into the 2015-16 academic year. Congratulations to the school on a fantastic set of SATs results. This is just reward for all the hard work by the staff and children. I am very proud of what our school has achieved this year academically, socially and on the sports field. Bishops Down is not just a school, it is a community. By continuing to work together we can ensure Bishops Down continues to be an amazing school.

For those pupils and staff moving on to new schools I wish you all the best. You may have left the school however you will always be part of Bishops Down. I would like to say special thanks to **Pat Wilson** and **Jane Clement** who are stepping down as governors.

I wish you all a fantastic summer holiday and look forward to working with you on your return.

**Vaughan Harding – Chair of Governors**



### Welcome – Harriett Agard

We were delighted to welcome Harriett Agard to the Governing Body this term. Harriett joins us as a co-opted governor. Originally from Lancashire, Harriett moved to Kent in 1981. She has one son and two grandsons. She has a Masters degree in law and her legal work to date has included representation on behalf of financial institutions in courts throughout Kent and Sussex. Harriett has vast experience as a general adviser in the voluntary sector for a UK wide charity. Harriett says "As a new Governor I am looking forward to contributing to the ethos of the school governance in achieving educational excellence by ensuring that the children attain their potentials through the infrastructure services provided by the inspirational staff."

## Results

We are sure that parents were as delighted as the governors and staff were with the SATs results that were published earlier this month.



While there is still progress to be made in some areas, and there is no room for complacency, the huge progress that has been made in most areas for Key Stage 1 and all areas for Key Stage 2 is fantastic. Staff and children have worked very hard to achieve these results and we are very proud of them all!

## Governor Training – Challenge and Impact



Three governors recently attended an interesting training session provided by KCC Governor Services.

The key message was that challenge of the school leadership team by governors is critical and the documenting of this challenge and its impact is important.

All governors' activities in school should tie in to the school development plan and governors need to be able to demonstrate the impact of their activity on school progress.

As we head into the next academic year, we will be putting this into practice in our governor action plan for the year.

## Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for two **Co-opted/Community Governors** (these positions cannot be filled by a parent or carer) If you know anybody who may be suitable for this role, please email [headteacher@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk)

## Get in Touch

If you want to get in touch with the Governors or if there is anything you'd like us to put on an agenda for one of our meetings, please email: [VHarding@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk](mailto:VHarding@bishops-down.kent.sch.uk)

## School Visits and Events



As governors we need to spend time at school to get to know staff and pupils in order to understand

the challenges they face and to support the school. Our meetings take place at school, some during the school day, and we undertake both formal and informal governor visits. Over the last term governors have carried out formal visits for English, IT & computing, and SEND. The purpose of these visits is to monitor how various areas are progressing against the school's development plan. We've also undertaken "learning walks" when we tour classrooms to look at specific areas, for example, governors on the standards committee looked at how reading is encouraged in classrooms and how children are inspired to write.

Many of the governors are also parents of children in the school, and so get to wear "two hats" at many of the events throughout the school year. Recently governors enjoyed the Variety Show where they were hugely impressed by the talents of many pupils and staff. We have also loved watching the children push themselves with amazing results at Sports Day.

Last week Angela Applegate watched the Year 6 performance of Oliver! She said; "Congratulations to Oak Class for a wonderful performance of Oliver! The audience were treated to some fantastic singing, dancing and acting. There are some very talented performers but what shone through more than anything was the way they worked together, supported each other and celebrated each other's success. Very well done to you all and good luck as you move on to your new schools. 'It's clear you're going to get along!'"

