

**GOVERNORS**

# NEWSLETTER

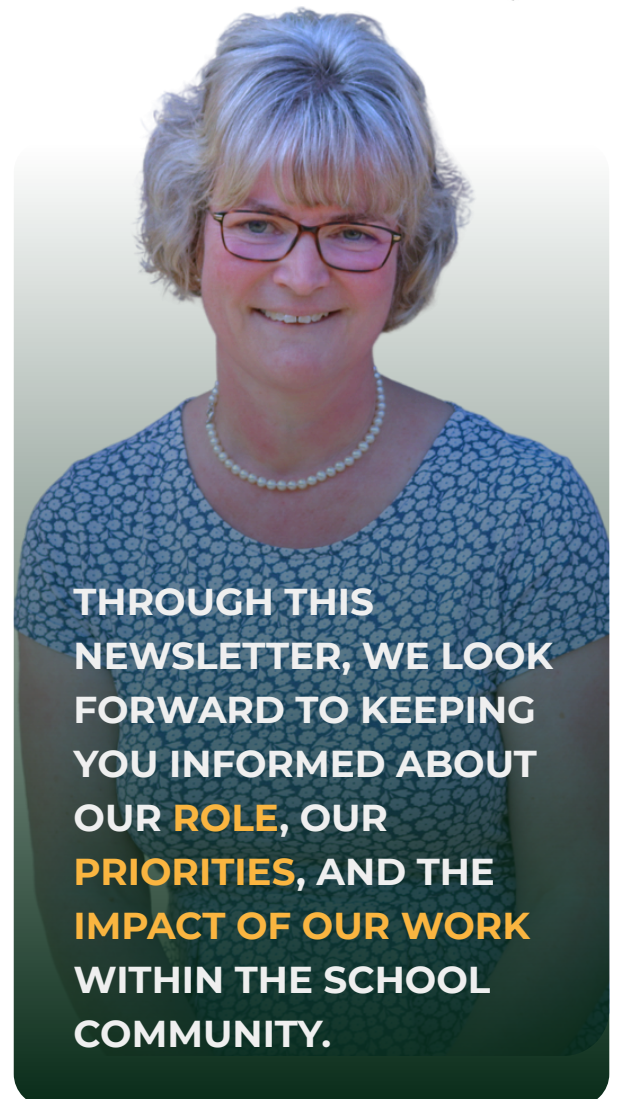
**MAY 2026**



## Welcome from the Chair of Governors

Welcome to our newly refreshed Governors' Newsletter. We hope it offers a clear and engaging insight into the work of the Governing Board at Fleet Infant School and the ways in which we support the school's continued success.

My name is **Sue Martin**, and I joined the Governing Board in May 2024. At the start of this academic year, I took on the role of Chair of Governors and am pleased to be leading such a dedicated and committed team. Together with our staff and school leaders, we remain focused on providing the very best educational experience for our children.



**THROUGH THIS  
NEWSLETTER, WE LOOK  
FORWARD TO KEEPING  
YOU INFORMED ABOUT  
OUR **ROLE**, OUR  
**PRIORITIES**, AND THE  
**IMPACT OF OUR WORK**  
WITHIN THE SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY.**

# SO FAR THIS YEAR...

What have the **governing board** been doing so far this academic year?

One of our most significant responsibilities this academic year has been the appointment of a new **Head Teacher**. The Governing Board established a dedicated recruitment panel, which worked closely with the local authority throughout a thorough and rigorous selection process.

## NEW HEADTEACHER

We are delighted to welcome **Mrs Chapman** to Fleet Infant School. We are confident that, under her leadership, the school will continue to build on its many strengths and further enhance the educational experience and opportunities available to our children.



## MRS CHAPMAN



## REVIEW & REFINE

In addition to this, we have continued to review and refine our governing board systems and processes, ensuring that our work remains effective, transparent and focused on supporting the school's strategic priorities. We have also maintained our programme of regular school visits, which enable us to see the school in action and deepen our understanding of teaching, learning and the wider school community.



# SUMMER TERM

## FOCUS FOR THE SUMMER TERM

During the summer term, we will be working closely with Mrs Chapman as she settles into her role to ensure a smooth and successful transition.



## OFSTED FRAMEWORK

We will also use our summer meetings to familiarise ourselves with the updated Ofsted framework, ensuring that the Governing Board is well prepared to support the school effectively at its next inspection, which is expected from the autumn term onwards. By planning ahead, we can ensure that our strategic oversight remains aligned with national expectations and continues to reflect the strengths and priorities of the school.

## OTHER BOARD MEMBERS

- Heather Chapman: Head Teacher
- Jorja Brown: Staff Governor
- Moira Bamfield: Vice Chair and Local Authority Governor
- Michael Borello: Co-opted Governor
- Kirsten Knowles: Parent Governor
- Tamaryn Morris: Parent Governor
- Simon Walker: Co-opted Governor
- Stephanie Watson: Co-opted Governor
- Linda McBrearty: Clerk to the board

## NEW VACANCY FOR 3 CO-OPTED GOVERNORS

We currently have vacancies for **three co-opted governors** and are very keen to recruit to this very rewarding role.

**Interested? Contact us at:**  
[info@fleet.hants.sch.uk](mailto:info@fleet.hants.sch.uk)



# CO-OPTED GOVERNOR



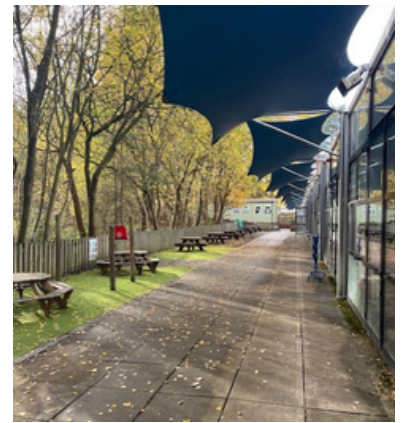
## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PARENT AND CO-OPTED GOVERNOR?

Parent Governors are elected by the parents and carers of the school and bring a valuable parental perspective to the Governing Board.

**Co-opted Governors** are appointed by the Governing Board. They are often members of the local community who bring specific skills, experience or expertise that strengthen the board's work.

## WHAT'S THE COMMITMENT IN BEING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

One of the most important aspects of being a school governor is having the time and willingness to fully engage in the role. Governors attend regular meetings, most of which take place in the evening, where we review progress, discuss strategy and provide both support and constructive challenge to school leaders. However, the role extends beyond meetings.



We also spend time in school during the day - meeting with staff, visiting classrooms and attending events such as assemblies and concerts. These visits are invaluable, as they help us to better understand the school's ethos, culture and day-to-day life. By seeing the school in action, we can more effectively fulfil our responsibility to support and strengthen the educational experience for all pupils.

## WHAT SKILLS DO YOU NEED TO BE A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

Above all, a genuine commitment to supporting the education and wellbeing of children is key. An interest in the school's long-term success, a willingness to ask thoughtful questions, and the confidence to both support and challenge constructively are all important qualities. No specialist background is required to become a governor. While experience in areas such as strategic leadership, finance, education, HR or safeguarding can be valuable, it is not essential. There is access to high-quality training, guidance and ongoing support from both the Governing Board and the local authority, ensuring that all governors are well equipped to fulfil their role effectively.

