



Lanesend Primary

Governor & Volunteer Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of our Governor and Volunteer Newsletter. This time the focus is on the role of **Mentors** at the school.

"As a volunteer mentor at Lanesend, I come into school for two hours, one afternoon a week, to meet with four students, spending half an hour of one-to-one time with each. We chat about the child, for example, what has been good, and what has not good about their week, while playing a game or doing an art or craft activity. Sometimes we choose a game or puzzle from the mentor resource box, or use materials from the art room. Sometimes I bring an activity in, or the child brings something to show me.

Generally the activities are just a tool to help us build our relationship, but they can also be intended to help a child in a specific way – perhaps an opportunity to do something I know they can do well, in order to build confidence, or an opportunity to reinforce helpful behaviour, for example learning to share, play fairly, or cope with losing. The most important thing is that they have had the undivided attention of an adult.

I enjoy getting to know each child, and seeing them develop – especially when the affirmation and encouragement I give helps build their confidence in themselves and in relating to adults. Sometimes a child may want to talk to me about something which worries them, or share some exciting news. It is such a privilege to be somebody they trust with their thoughts and feelings.

Perhaps you could be a mentor? If you have ever played with a child and given them your attention and encouragement, you could be a mentor – and there is always support on hand from Chloe in the Additional Needs team. Just an hour a week could really make a difference for 2 children".

Judith Compton, Children and Families Worker, Cowes Baptist Church

To find out more, contact Chloe at aen-dept@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk

Chair of Governors

Kate Palfrey

Staff Governors

Caroline Sice, Andrea

Flux, Tara Hopkinson

Dave Cooper

- (as Caroline's deputy)

Non Staff Governors (with year group):

Yr R: Karen Herbert-Duff

karen.herbert-duff@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk

Yr 1: Lauren Elliott

lauren.elliott@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk

Yr 2: Emma Norton

emma.norton@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk

Yr 3: Jo Hunter

jo.hunter@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk

Yr 4: Ken Burns

ken.burns@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk

Yr 5: Kate Palfrey

chair@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk

Yr 6: Jez Robinson

jez.robinson@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk

Commissioning Groups

Child Centred Group

Teaching & Learning

Finance

Strategy & Marketing



Governor & Volunteer Newsletter

Governor Update

Since the last newsletter, things have continued to move forward with our Governors. Firstly, we are delighted to welcome Tara Hopkinson to the group. Tara is the Early Years lead but has decided to add to her already high workload by becoming a Governor in order to understand more about the overall running of the school. She will be a great asset, especially as there is a current focus on how we best integrate with pre-school education.

We are still eagerly awaiting our Ofsted inspection. We are keen for this to happen as soon as possible so that we can demonstrate the quality of our school – hopefully we can move up from “Good” to “Outstanding”. In preparation for the inspection, the last Full Governors meeting was mostly set aside for a quiz challenge. Quiz Master, Mrs Sice, fired questions at teams of three governors on all the aspects of school life that Ofsted could ask us about; things like academic achievement, safeguarding, health & safety, school policies and finance. We were pleased with our overall knowledge but it was helpful to get a nudge on what we need to brush up on!

Another focus at the school is how we link in with all our families. To help this we have a Parent Engagement Group and have just had the first meeting of our new Parent Council. We were delighted to have eight parents turn up for what was a very helpful but informal meeting. The idea is to get direct feedback from parents and enable to allow all parents to have a “voice”, either directly or via their class representative. The next meeting is at 1.30pm on 1st July. Please contact the office or email karen.herbert-duff@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk if you would like to come along.

One of the parent/school communication ideas is to use online surveys as a better way of understanding opinion. There are a few surveys planned, including one already sent on prospective changes to both school holidays and the school day. Please make every effort to complete them, every opinion counts – we are aiming for 100% response rate!

Thank you for reading

Volunteering Opportunities

Governors / Parent Council / Mentoring / Reading assistance / Fundraising / Organising events / Afterschool club help / Teaching specialist skills (such as music or drama) / Sports coaching / School trips.

For information on any of the above, or with any other idea to help the school, please come in and see us or email admin@lanesendpri.iow.sch.uk. **Next Edition:** FOCUS ON: Child Centred Commissioning