

November 2017

Hello Everyone!

Already the term is well underway and on behalf of our school Governors, I am pleased to welcome you to the new year at school. A special warm welcome to all our new parents with Foundation children and anyone who has joined the school new this year. We look forward to supporting you and your children throughout their primary years.

The Governors are involved in a variety of ways in school; not just at Governor meetings. From time to time, we give you an update of what we have been involved with and this year has seen many changes and new Governors too.

We attend many school functions and also have specific roles in school, which keep us busy and informed about how the school is working for the benefit of all your children.

We have welcomed three new Governors; Mrs Rachel Confue, Mr Rob Lippett and Mrs Gemma Aspen. Mrs Confue is now our Vice Chair and I would like to thank Mr Tony McManus for his year as Vice Chair.

Lynn Smith, Chair of Governors

Connect Academy Trust (CAT)

We have just completed our first year as part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT), which has been a very exciting and busy time for all five schools involved. Since becoming a MAT, we have had a different format to our Governor meetings and we now meet regularly to discuss the MAT agenda, but also have continued with meetings which are just Thornbury specific. This works very well.

I have also been involved with meetings with Chairs and Vice Chairs from all five schools, enabling us all to build relationships across the MAT.

As Governors we would like to thank parents for your continued support in all aspects of school life. We really appreciate the level of involvement you all have with your children's schooling. We all look forward to meeting you at events during 2017-18.

Governor Vacancies!

We have two governor vacancies, and it would be good if at least one of these could be filled from the parent body. As one of the committees of the CAT board, it is important to have a mix of expertise. We are therefore looking for people with specific experience in management at a senior level, for example in finance, HR, Health & Safety or premises management. We are a friendly bunch, who have the interests of the children at heart. All governors sign a code of conduct, and have to have a new DBS. If this could be you, please contact school in the first instance.

Thornbury Primary A letter from the Chair of Governors



What does the Chair of Governors do?

As Chair of Governors, I make regular visits to the school to meet with the Head teacher, Mrs Hardisty. These are opportunities to be updated about all areas of school life. I meet, too, with staff, informally on such occasions, which is most useful in developing and maintaining working relationships with staff and getting to know new members of the Thornbury team.

I also have regular meetings with our Clerk to Governors and we jointly attend Clerk and Governor update meetings in the city. I also attend all our joint CAT meetings.

I have worked closely with several members of staff, to provide important information about subjects and significant areas of school, which we need to monitor and report on in our Governors' role.

It has been very informative to work with coordinators and follow the development and progress, across school, in English, Maths, Science, SEND and Safeguarding, this past year.

We have an agreed system of such reporting, so that all areas of the curriculum and aspects of school life are dealt with, from Early Years to Year 6, on a cycle.

We receive these reports, along with data about the children's progress, at Governors' Meetings and discuss them with the head teacher and other leaders.

This past year I have attended the Christmas Fair, all years' Christmas productions, staff training, interviews, Performance Management, Book Event/ meeting the author and the Summer Fair.

I attend an Annual Review, with all staff, and governors, of the School Improvement Plan, at the end of the academic year. We then decide, all together, what the school should focus on for the following year.

As Governors we also undertake our own annual performance management review at this time and plan for our next year. To keep abreast of education issues, I attend update meetings and training provided by a consultant and Plymouth Association of Governors, who also hold a useful annual conference.

I remain very proud of our school and enjoy being part of the Thornbury Team. I am looking forward to the year ahead.

I have been a Governor coming up to a year now and it has been a real learning curve for me! I currently work as a Parent Support Advisor at another Plymouth school, but have some background as one of my children attended Thornbury. He "blossomed" in the speech and language provision and I guess that is why I find it exciting to be part of the school now that this provision has extended across the school.

Prior to being a Parent Support Advisor, I was a Psychiatric Nurse in Plymouth, Ipswich and Portsmouth, I relocated here due to my husband's career, however it is Plymouth that feels like home.

I have quite a large family that take up a lot of my time and energy! I enjoy swimming and with our new family member, a puppy, walking around our countryside.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and to hopefully welcome new Governors to our team.

Rachel Confue, Vice Chair of Governors

I have been a co-opted Governor for nearly 3 years and held the position of Vice Chair last year after the postholder moved across to the newly formed Connect Academy Trust. Aside from attending regular meetings, I have particular responsibility for Health and Safety and with 2 others Governors Literacy and Numeracy.

The school has an external Health & Safety examiner who visits regularly and I will be accompanying him for his next school site walkabout. This will enable me to update Governors at our next meeting and for me to monitor any work which may be required.

I attended a Year 6 Maths lesson a couple of weeks ago which I really enjoyed and plan to attend a literacy lesson in the near future.

Being retired now I like to spend time in my garden and socialising as well as being a Grandad.

Tony MacManus, Co-opted Governor

I joined the Governors earlier this year and was very happy to join the team. I have known the school for many years and think it provides excellent opportunities for the children.

I work as a Mentor and Family Support Worker in a primary school in the west of the city. At the start of my career I worked at Estover Community College and have fond memories of working in our local community.

In my spare time I used to enjoy hill walking and climbing but I am currently renovating my house, so don't seem to have much spare time these days!

I look forward to meeting more of the pupils, parents and staff through the coming year.

Rob Lippett, Co-opted Governor

I joined Thornbury after completing my teacher training with Devon Primary SCITT, and am now enjoying my fifth year of teaching. Most of my time here has been teaching Year 3 and 4 in the Lower Juniors but this year I have made a change to the Infants, where I am enjoying teaching in Year 2. I feel teaching is such a rewarding career and I love getting to know all the children here at Thornbury. Prior to starting my teacher training, I studied Psychology at Plymouth University and in my final year I particularly focussed on child psychological development and memories.

I take the lead in Arts at Thornbury and I have a keen personal interest in art and crafts, enjoying drawing and painting in my own time. I run an Art after school club and through the delivery of whole school CPD have introduced 'Arts week', as well as a focus on work linking to particular artists.

I became a Staff Governor for Thornbury last year, and I am enjoying learning the role whilst getting to know the other Governors. I love living here in the Southwest and enjoy an active lifestyle; I can often be found walking around the moors, swimming or surfing.

Gemma Aspen, Staff Governor