

**Castlewood School Governing Body**

Chair: Mr. David Storer

Vice Chair: Mrs. Mary Page

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July, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy school year, the Governors would like to take the opportunity to share a few updates with you, express our thanks and wish you all the best for the upcoming summer holidays.

### Governing Board Focus

It has been a particularly busy year this year for the Governors, and we are pleased to share our impact report with you, which you will find attached to this email.

It was a pleasure for us to be able to visit the school this term, as a group. We met with both pupils and staff, celebrating work and hearing about the fantastic teaching and learning at Castlewood. We visited classrooms and could see how the development of the English curriculum is having an impact. We enjoyed chatting to the School Council Representatives and having lunch with the staff.



We continue to focus on ways for Castlewood to maximise funding, with tight budgets and costs increasing. As a board, we are always seeking to explore opportunities for additional funding and to ensure that these are used to achieve a positive impact for pupils.

Our timetable of visits to school continues, where members of the Governing Body meet with subject leaders to discuss progress and development with the different curriculum focus areas. Most recently we have been focusing on wellbeing. We have discussed the challenges and support available: approving two new school policies, specifically focusing on pupil and staff wellbeing.

The safeguarding of pupils is always a key focus: one where the board monitors the effectiveness of the policies and processes in place throughout the year. The introduction of the new Behaviour for Learning policy will be reviewed as it continues to embed across the school.

### School Events and Achievements

We have been delighted to hear about, and experience for ourselves, the numerous visits and activities over the academic year. To name a few: Sports Day, The Horsham Children's Parade, World Book Day, trips/ visitors to support topics and various sporting fixtures. It has been quite a year, and we would like to thank anyone who has played a part in the organisation of these.

It has been fantastic to see the strong support, and seamless transition to new communication channels with parents. From online forms, the interactive newsletter and the

brand new website: there have been lots of improvements, and we are glad they have been so positively received. Our thanks to all the staff who have made it happen, but in particular to Rob Marshall of [Iris Digital Marketing](#) and Mike Critchley of [High Performance Media](#) who have given many hours of their valuable time to build the website and create videos for no cost to the school.

We would like to thank SOCS for their continued efforts with fundraising. Without them, so many important moments would not have been possible, and we look forward to seeing the development of the nature area. It is always a joy to attend their events, and the most recent summer BBQ was full of fun and laughter.

### Governing Board Changes

We are delighted to have Edlene Whitman join our team of volunteer governors. Edlene brings a wealth of expertise, from her extensive career in a variety of educational settings.

### Reflections

We would like to welcome the new Reception cohort and wish the Year 6 leavers all the best, as they move on to their new Secondary Schools.

Thank you to all our amazing staff for their dedication and hard work – so much goes on behind the scenes and we are very grateful for all you do. Thanks also to all volunteers who have offered their time to support our school.

We would like to extend our very best wishes to staff who are moving onto new adventures and thank Mrs Burchett, Mrs Beange, Mrs Oxenford and Mrs Harrison for all they have done for the pupils at Castlewood.

Mrs Beange has had a huge impact on the provision and support for pupils with additional needs during her time as SENDCo. Mrs Burchett has been an inspirational teacher during her 10 years at Castlewood. We are so grateful to her for the support she has given to our Year 6 pupils with their preparation for SATS and transition to their new schools. She has also taken on the position of Assistant Headteacher this year and we wish her a well-deserved retirement.

We hope that you can find some time to relax with family and friends over the summer and look forward to seeing you all again in the Autumn Term.

Wish our very best wishes,

**David Storer**  
Chair of Governors  
(LA Governor)

**Mary Page**  
Vice Chair  
(Co-Opted Governor)

**Kirsty Anstee-Brown**  
Headteacher

**Helen Marshall**  
(Staff Governor)

**Martin Forsyth**  
(Parent Governor)

**Claudine Allen**  
(Co-Opted Governor)

**Danni Tresadern**  
(Co-Opted Governor)

**Roger Wells**  
(Co-Opted Governor)

**Paul Firkins**  
(Co-Opted Governor)

**Tom White**  
(Co-Opted Governor)

**Lucinda Exwood**  
(Parent Governor)

**Mark Tunnell**  
(Parent Governor)

**Edlene Whitman**  
(Co-Opted Governor)