

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

# Castlewood Primary School

Developing the Whole Child to be World-Ready



**Chair:** David Storer

**Vice Chair:** Mary Page

July, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the conclusion of the academic 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 summer holidays.



## Governing Board Focus

The last 12 months have again been very busy for the Governing Board with several new appointments, numerous visits and support to the school continuing in many ways.

It was a real pleasure to have the opportunity to attend a whole school assembly this term. We were interviewed by the Pupil Leadership Team, who asked us some well-thought out and interesting questions. We also had the chance to meet with all the School Council representatives to hear their ideas for future school development, and about their important role in representing classes.

Funding remains a key focus, as budgets are tight and the cost of delivering education continues to rise. As a board we have been able to identify and secure additional funding to improve our school fences and gates. We have also been able to highlight to our local MP the reality of school funding and the impact that can have on a school community, this included how universal free school meals are funded, and how Special Educational Needs are supported at Castlewood.

Our timetable of visits to school, focusing on curriculum focus areas, has continued. This is where members of the Governing Body meet with subject leaders, to discuss progress and development in their subject area. As part of a recent meeting, Mr Hill attended to provide an overview of how he leads three different areas. He outlined what works well and where the school are looking to make changes to be even more effective.

The safeguarding of our pupils at Castlewood is always a key focus, and one where the board closely monitors the effectiveness of the policies and processes in place. We monitor attendance, recognising the link between strong attendance, pupil engagement and attainment and progress. We were delighted to see that the school met their high expectations with 97% attendance across the school year.



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## School Events and Achievements

The development of the nature area has been a wonderful addition to the school environment, and a big thank you must be given to SOCS for raising a huge amount to ensure that the area is such a welcoming and useful space for pupils to use as part of their learning. Hearing about Welly Tuesdays, tadpoles and how the school are planning to develop this provision is exciting, and would not be possible without the time, energy and generosity of SOCS.

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.

## Governing Board Changes

It has been a busy year of change, and we have been joined by three new governors **Malcolm Munro** (Co-opted Governor), **Anita Charman** and **Ioana Mellers** (Parent Governors) and **Becky Bull** (Staff Governor). We welcome them all to the team and are very grateful for the skills and experience they each bring.

We have said thank you and farewell to **Tom White, Mark Tunnell, Helen Marshall and Paul Firkins** as their time volunteering as part of the Governing Body comes to an end.

We have also recruited a new Clerk to support our work as a Board, **Georgina Masters**. Georgina brings a wealth of knowledge from the roles she had held in education, and we look forward to working with her.

## Reflections

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

Thank you to all our amazing staff team 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 our volunteers who have offered their time to support our school, from listening to readers or helping at other school events.

We hope you find some time to have a well-deserved break with family and friends over the summer, and we look forward to seeing you all again in the Autumn Term.

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

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

**Kirsty Anstee-Brown**  
Headteacher

**Becky Bull**  
(Staff Governor)

**Anita Charman**  
(Parent Governor)

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

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

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

**Malcom Munro**  
(Co-Opted Governor)

**Martin Forsyth**  
(Co-Opted Governor)

**Lucinda Exwood**  
(Parent Governor)

**Ioana Mellers**  
(Parent Governor)

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