

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the days warm up and the daffodils brighten the gardens, spring is in the air and the Easter break is on the horizon.

The Governing Board has been busy this term supporting the leadership team in creating a school culture which ensures children who come to Forton Primary School become adults who 'Shine'.

To give you a little more information about our Governors, we asked them to write a pen portrait which will hopefully give you an idea of the broad cross-section of society represented on the board.

We wish you an enjoyable holiday, when it gets here and hope the weather will enable us all to get out and about and enjoy the place we live.

Peter Taylor (Chair of Governors)
Ruth Ross (Vice Chair of Governors)

Recent Activities

- Held a Full Governing Board meeting – Autumn and Spring term.
- Held a Standards and Effectiveness meeting with School Adviser
- Held Governor sub-committee meetings.
- Received an update on the School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- Received the headteacher's report and assessment report.
- Received subject leader reports.
- Carried out link governor visits and monitoring at school.
- Reviewed a number of school policies in accordance with monitoring timetable.
- Finance and resources reviews have taken place supporting school in creating the new library, installing new gates and improving the outdoor areas for the teaching and learning.
- Attended range of training appropriate to roles

Planned Activities

During the Summer term, the Governing Board will:

- Agreeing the budget and staffing for 2023-24
- With the headteacher, review and approve the updated School Improvement Plan against Self Evaluation priorities.
- Identify areas of focus for the 2023-24 School Improvement Plan
- Receive subject leaders reports and participate in visits as outlined in the monitoring timetable.
- Prepare for and attend formal meetings.
- Review Governors' action plan and set objectives for the Full Governing Board linked to the School Improvement Plan



Spring Meeting Dates

Standards, Teaching and Learning
Committee Meeting
19th January 2023

Resources Committee Meeting
1st February 2023

Full Governing Board (FGB)
Meeting
8th March 2023

Standards and Effectiveness
Committee Meeting
30th March 2023

Governor Updates

We have sadly received the resignation of one of our long-standing Governors, Janet Huddart. We would like to thank her for all her valuable work and commitment covering many generations of children.

We will be using the skills audit to assist in the recruitment of a new Governor for the school.

How to contact us

If you would like to contact the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors to raise any issue in confidence, you can do so either by letter or email via the school office

Pen Portraits

Richard Budd



I'm Ryu and Sana's dad, and a lecturer at Lancaster Uni. I actually study and teach about universities, where my main interest is making education better and fairer for everyone.

This is the hat I wear as a school governor, and I hope that I can bring some value to discussions around what we teach and how. I'm the PSHE governor at the school.

Martin Dean

I became interested in becoming a school governor following Covid home schooling as I found myself intrigued to know more about how the school functioned, especially under such challenging circumstances and with such a small team.

I work in Civil Engineering where my core responsibilities are to plan and manage safe projects with sound financial management. I felt these skills could overlap with the needs of the governing body. Following a vacancy, I was accepted to a position on the resources committee which seemed a good fit for what I'm able to contribute.



Laura Hartley



I have two boys at school in year 2 and year 4 currently. They love Forton School and I have been really happy with the teaching and support they have been given there. I decided I wanted to give something back to the community and I agreed to become a Parent Governor in July 2022.

I have worked at Lancaster University for 15 years and I currently work as an Admissions Officer. Previously I have worked as a Personal Assistant in the Vice-Chancellors Office, as a Marketing Coordinator and in 2021 I spent a period of six months on secondment as a Governance Officer. I hope that my experience working in education and as a Mum will help me to work with the school community to make Forton Primary School the best place it can be for children, parents and staff.

Nichola Hetherington

I was delighted to be invited to become a Community Governor recently. I have lived in Forton for more than 30 years and know that the school is a very important part of village life. My three children attended Forton Primary School and during that time I was involved with FOFs, I was a Classroom Assistant for a couple of years, an active parent helper (listening to reading in Class 2, developing computer skills) and an assistant at the After School Club.

Some of you might also know me as 'Barn Owl' with the 1st Shireshead Brownies. Recently retired from a career in scientific publishing based at Lancaster University, and now enjoying more time for walking and gardening, I look forward to being involved with Forton School again.



Ruth Ross

I have been a governor at Forton school for 5 years, before which I was a primary school teacher and headteacher. My own two daughters attended Forton school, during which time I was on the FOFs committee and also a parent helper, listening to readers and helping with crafts.

I currently work part-time as a school adviser which keeps me abreast of current educational thinking and practice. I have a strong commitment to securing the very best for children and will continue to support and challenge Forton school to do just that.

Having lived in Forton for over 30 years, I am also involved with 1st Shireshead Brownie Unit and Shireshead St James church. I enjoy gardening and crafting in my free time.

**Peter Taylor**

I feel privileged to be able to serve as a Governor of Forton Primary School and to support its aims of providing the best learning experience for every child.

I was originally a parent governor when our son was at Forton in the mid-2000's and then stood down a few years after he left. I was pleased to be given another opportunity to give something back to the school when I was invited back to the governing board in 2015 and I have been part of the many challenges and successes of the school since then.

I spent my career in a range of scientific, technical and safety-related roles as well as experiencing significant cultural and organisational changes at work and I hope I bring some of that experience to my role as governor for the benefit of the school. The school continues to evolve, as does the role of governor, and it's great to know that the school and the governing board continue to be open to new opportunities while remaining focussed on providing a positive impact on the children, the staff, the parents and carers and the wider community.