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Dear Parents,

As we come to the summer term, I am writing on behalf of the Governors to share key information about your school and its governance during this year.

The current governors are:

Caroline Woodbridge-Lewin	Diocesan approved governor	Chair of governors
Di Sheldon	Diocesan approved governor	Vice chair of governors
Helen Turner	Trust appointed governor	
Will Webb	Trust appointed governor	
Colin Acheson-Gray	Trust appointed governor	
Pam Evans	Trust appointed governor	
Jessamy Done	Parent governor	
Sarah Bryning	Parent governor	
Lucy Acheson-Gray	Staff governor	

The Governors responsibilities are:

- a) Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- b) Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- c) Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

It seems impossible to believe that our 'new' school has now been open for two years, how time flies! Everyone has worked very hard to make sure the building, and now the field, are being used to their full potential and children and staff are enjoying all the facilities.

It may be a new building, but the values remain the same and, as governors, we make sure that the mission is adhered to so that our children learn in a nurturing environment where everyone is valued as an individual, where we care for one another and foster positive emotional growth and well-being. Through the broad and balanced curriculum, our children are inspired, motivated and challenged to become independent and confident learners, maximising intellectual, social, physical and spiritual development. The school motto remains the same, **'All things are possible for one who believes' (Mark 9:23)**

Shrivenham School gives everyone the opportunity to believe in themselves, others, and God. Through the values of love, hope and courage, everyone at our school can flourish, fulfil their

unique potential and positively contribute to the community. We put Shrivenham School at the heart of village life, actively encouraging partnership with parents, the Church and the wider community.

This year the governors have been refreshing the vision for the school along with the new head of school and the staff. We have used feedback from the parent, staff, and pupil surveys to finesse this. We have written and adopted a new 5 year vision and strategy document and have set some ambitious targets. We have already identified focus points for the staff and governors because one of the main roles of governors is to monitor the SDP (the School Development Plan,) which relates to overall school improvement and is linked to the long-term strategic plan. It covers everything from curriculum matters and learning to wellbeing and behaviour.

Monitoring is done by governors visiting school to check on everything from safeguarding and health and safety to seeing lessons and checking on teacher development. We have a link governor programme which assigns a governor to different areas allowing greater insight into each area, and to the curriculum, and how it is being taught. It provides a great opportunity for the governors to get to know the teaching staff and to provide support and challenge. We continue to ensure that we meet our statutory duties with safeguarding and health and safety at the forefront

Against a very challenging financial backdrop, the governing body has a key role to play in ensuring that the premises and facilities are well managed and that there is careful stewardship of the finances. We thank the Executive Head and the Trust for all their hard work in this. Like most schools in the country, funding is a challenge with costs rising higher than income year on year. Staff costs, which absorb most of our budget, are increasing more rapidly than the corresponding grants and income. For example, the latest pay rise granted nationally for teachers and support staff was not fully matched by an equivalent increase in funding. A recovery budget is in place but at the heart of every decision is ensuring that we make the best choice for the children at Shrivenham school.

At this point, we would like to thank our fabulous FOSS parents' group for the work they do. Their fundraising makes a real difference to the school and the experiences of our pupils. Please do support them over the coming months – it is more important than ever. They are always looking for new members to help on the committee.

I hope this gives you a flavour of the breadth and depth of the governing body's involvement behind the scenes. Fundamentally, the role of the governors is a strategic one linked to helping the school to deliver on its vision and promise to grow our children into happy and respectful, lifelong learners.

We currently have a vacancy for a Trust appointed governor (ie. someone who is not connected to a child in the school,) so please let us know if you know anyone who might be interested. They should contact the head of school to find out more about what is involved.

Best wishes

Caroline and Di

We would like to invite you to come to meet some of the governors at our next Community Connect meeting on Friday, 1st of May 26 at 1400 at School. This is an opportunity for an informal chat with some of the governors and staff.