

Governor News

Spring Term 2026

Issue 5



A message from the Chair of Governors

As we move through another busy term, the Governing Body would like to share an update on our work and shine a light on the vital role governors play in shaping the long-term strategic direction of our school.

Roles of the Governing Body

Hi, I'm Claire and I have been on the governing body for over 12 years. My official title is Parent Governor. I have had two sons go through Hordle school, nine years apart, so I have seen many changes over this time.

Each governor focuses on a specific area of the school, and, as my working background was always in finance, I sit on the Finance and Resources Committee, overseeing how the budget is spent. I also monitor the curriculum, most notably across Early Years and Computing as part of my wider role.

It has been so wonderful watching the nursery start and grow into the great provision we now have, which is used and loved by so many. We really are privileged to have such a great school and nursery setting in our community.

Spending time in school is also a privilege and I get to witness, first hand, the huge amount of work and enthusiasm staff put into teaching our children - it really is incredible.

When I am not in school or at work, I love to spend time in Cornwall with my family, usually on our friends' farm as both my boys are passionate about agriculture.

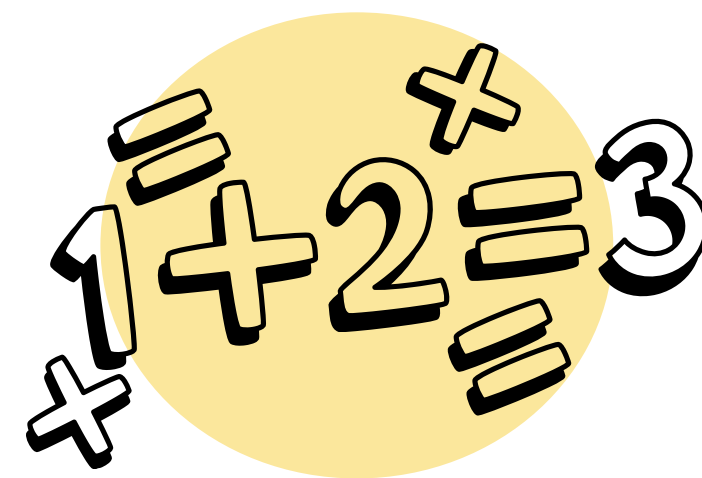


Governors in School



GOVERNOR DAY

Each term, our Governing Body is invited into school for Governor Day. These days provide governors with the opportunity to observe learning, speak with pupils and engage with staff. These visits are never about inspection or judgement; they are always about understanding, supporting and strengthening the school's strategic direction.



SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PLAN PRIORITIES - MATHEMATICS

This term, the focus of our Governor Day was on **Mathematics** as this is on our **School Excellence Plan** this year.

Behind the scenes, teachers have been working hard this year on reviewing our provision for the most able learners in order to make sure that we continue to secure strong attainment for pupils working at ARE (Age Related Expectations) and also support as many pupils as possible in achieving Greater Depth Standard (GDS) across the whole school.

In our School Improvement Committee meeting, governors heard about the work Miss Cazneauz and Miss Trim have been doing with Rebecca Vickers, a HIAS (Hampshire Inspectorate and Advisory Team) lead on Mathematics. There has been a strategic focus which has involved staff development, regular monitoring and a focus on the further enhancement of the way we teach Mathematics to continue working towards our aspirational goals for all.

On Governor Day, all our governors were invited into class to see **Maths lessons** in action. Here are some quotes from Judith Bean, Parent Governor, on her visit.



"As a Governor, it is not just about attending meetings, we also get to see all the things we hear about in those meetings put into practice in the classroom. This could be new parts of the curriculum, new materials or support items being used that we have approved the purchase of or in this case, how challenge for improvement is put into practice in Maths lessons. I always enjoy these visits as I always witness the Superhero values being used by the children, be it Captain Teamship by helping others and Captain Resilience if they are struggling with a task. As well as those, on this visit I also saw Captain Risk Taker in abundance, taking on Maths challenges and trying tricky reasoning questions.

I visited the Upper Juniors and sat in on Maths lessons. The children were so enthusiastic! Children were excited to engage in their Maths and if they did finish, they moved on to the uplevel challenge questions which were available on the challenge sheets.

The Let's Think section of the Maths lesson encouraged children to spot similarities and differences in questions and explore alternative ways to get to the same answer. It was truly insightful to hear the children's depth of thinking in mathematics.

Pupil Voice in Mathematics

As part of our governor monitoring this term, we met with a group of children to hear their views on mathematics. One of the key targets on the school's Excellence Plan is to strengthen Greater Depth learning – the more complex, challenging tasks that help children think flexibly, reason deeply and apply their maths in new situations. Listening to children helps us understand how this priority is being experienced in classrooms and how well the school's hard work is supporting them.

WHAT CHILDREN TOLD US

The children we spoke to enjoy maths

The children described feeling confident and engaged in their lessons, and many talked about enjoying the sense of achievement that comes from tackling more demanding learning.



Challenge feels right

Children told us they experience challenge regularly and that the level feels appropriate. They described maths as more demanding this year but in a way that helps them think harder and feel proud of what they can now do.

They can see themselves improving

Every child we spoke to felt they had made progress as a mathematician. They talked about understanding more, feeling more secure with methods and noticing improvements in their results. This reflects the hard work teachers are putting into developing deeper thinking across the curriculum.

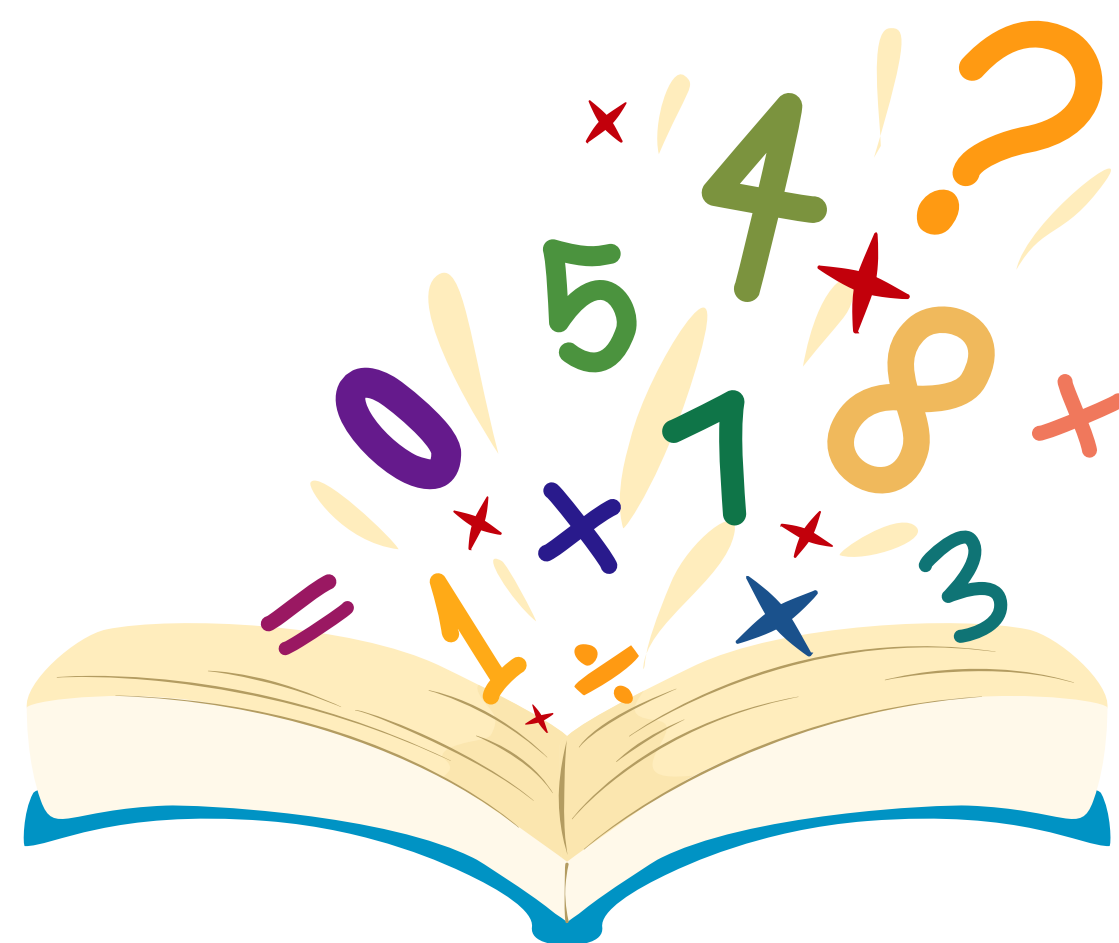
Support is strong and purposeful

Children were able to explain clearly what they do when they get stuck. They talked about using strategies, resources, working walls, maths partners and the guidance of teachers and TAs. They also recognised that adults help them think, rather than simply giving answers – a key part of our ongoing research project this year on scaffolding.

“
I like the challenge
and getting things
right.
”

“
I can see my results
getting better and it
makes me feel proud.
”

“
I've become more
interested in maths this
year and I can see a big
difference.
”



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR SCHOOL

From our conversations, it is clear that children are responding very positively to the school's focus on greater depth. Children enjoy the challenge, feel well supported and can see their own progress. As governors, we are pleased to see the impact of the school's work: children developing confidence, embracing challenge with resilience and a genuine enjoyment of mathematical thinking.

We will continue to monitor this priority and celebrate the progress being made.

Governors in School

During our School Improvement Committee Meeting, there was a chance for a presentation this term on Design and Technology.

A group of children from the **Upper Juniors** came to talk enthusiastically about their latest project, **'Fun at the Fair'**. It was evident just how enthused the children were by the project and they **talked confidently** about the different phases of their journey: researching, exploration, making and reflecting.

Some of the designs shared with us had incorporated Crumble, a programmable controller, which is able to control lights, the speed of the motor and even a buzzer. Children had thoughtfully used these to create safety features, aesthetics and increase rider enjoyment.



WHAT DID OUR GOVERNORS SAY?

"It was great to see how Mrs Way has reflected on this unit, drawing on the advice of Sarah Pookes (HIAS DT lead) to further develop this unit, ensuring it has evolved over time to now feature greater exploration, reflection and the use of Crumble kits to blend Design and Technology with the Computing curriculum." Sarah Cearn



.....
"What struck me most was the children's confidence and creativity."
.....

"I was struck by the level of coding which was used to further refine and develop the projects."
.....

"Exploration was an essential part of the learning process."



Presentations to the Governors

SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PLAN PRIORITIES - SPELLING

Our final presentation was an update from Mrs Marchant on the important changes that have taken place this year with the spelling curriculum. Securing the core foundations of spelling, handwriting, grammar and punctuation remain an ongoing strategic priority on the School Excellence Plan.



During one of our school INSET days, on 4th January this year, the staff all received training in the Read Write Inc spelling programme from Mrs Marchant and Miss Trim. Since then, the team have delivered their very first term of the new spelling programme and things are going really well.



Benefits of the programme:

- This RWI programme provides consistency and continuity from our RWI Phonics programme
- The units are pitched appropriately allowing groups to have the spelling unit most appropriate to their needs
- Children are actively taught new spelling rules by the programmes three engaging characters: Mu, Gamma and Zeta.
- Common Exception Words are carefully mapped across the programme to ensure these all taught.
- Children are really enjoying the engaging games to practice spelling

“The spelling booklets showed that the children are working really hard on their new programme. The attention to acing accuracy in spelling is highly evident.”

Thank you and best wishes

At the end of Spring term, we wish to say thank you and farewell to Miss Arnold. We would like to thank Miss Arnold for all of her hard work this year, supporting our pupils and staff team and wish her the very best for the future.

Mrs Gibbons is leaving us this week to embark on her retirement after an amazing 25 years of service at Team Hordle. Mrs Gibbons has been a huge part of the Early Years phase team during her career at Hordle and was a pivotal part of the original team to set up our very successful nursery. We will miss Mrs Gibbons hugely but we wish her the very best for her thoroughly deserved retirement and we look forward to seeing her back for visits!

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Knight will be joining the Upper Junior team as a Teaching Assistant after the Easter holidays. Mrs Knight brings with her a wealth of school experience and we know she is going to be a wonderful addition to the team. Thank you for making her feel welcome.

We are recruiting for a further Teaching Assistant to join the team. If you know anyone that would love to join our hard-working team, please share this advert. For more information, please click [HERE](#).

Whilst the team may be going through a period of change, one thing remains the same; our ongoing dedication and commitment to our wonderful children.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful Easter!

