



Believe in ourselves; be  
the best we can be

## December 2025

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding autumn term, the whole Governing Board would like to send our best wishes to you all this festive season. This time of year, gives us an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of our school community, celebrate the hard work of pupils and staff and look ahead to the coming year.

**Celebrating Achievements** – We continue to be impressed by the dedication, creativity and resilience shown by our pupils. From classroom learning and extra-curricular achievements, to the memorable Year 6 residential, to fantastic festive performances and community events, they have represented our school with responsibility and pride. We have welcomed our new Explorers and some new families in school and at Preschool. Our newest children have all settled happily into school life. Our thanks go to the staff team whose commitment and care make such a difference to all our children every day.



**Thank You** - A special thank you to our dedicated and hardworking FOBS team who organized the hugely successful disco just before half term and of course the much-loved Christmas Fair. As a Governing Board we appreciate their hard work, creativity and dedication - these events bring our school community together and make a huge difference to funding a variety of school projects which benefit all our children.



**The Governing Board** – We work closely with the school's leadership team to ensure that the school and preschool provide the best possible education for all our pupils. Although we are not involved in day-to-day management, we play an important role in asking questions, and offering challenges, as well as supporting the headteacher and staff. We set the strategic direction, monitor progress, and hold the school to account for its performance. We also help to ensure that resources are used effectively and the school and Preschool remain safe, inclusive and supportive environments for every child. We are particularly grateful for the honesty, open communication and hard work of the school's leadership team which enables us to fulfill our roles effectively. A special mention also to Geoff Jones, our superbly efficient Clerk, who supports the Board to stay organised, informed and compliant, enabling us to focus on strategic leadership.



**Introductions** – We have welcomed two new co-opted Governors to our Board – Dr Adam McCartney and Richard Darcy. Both bring a wealth of experience, expertise and knowledge to our team. Adam and Richard have both joined our Resources Committee. Richard said, "Having previously worked as a teacher for nine years, I have always been interested in the role played by school governors. Now with a child attending Bishopsteignton Preschool, I felt it was the right time to step into the role of school governor. I look forward to having a positive impact on Bishopsteignton School and continuing the stellar work of the governing body."



**Governor Spotlight - Sonya Lamoon** is a Co-opted Governor and is Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee. She was a teaching Deputy Head in a local primary school for many years, has worked in several early years settings across the county and is the lead Governor for Preschool. She is passionate about early years education and is particularly interested in children's language development, early reading skills and phonics. Sonya is also a member of the Double Elephant Print Workshop in Exeter and specializes in linocut printing. When she isn't designing and making prints at her kitchen table, she loves faffing about in the garden, her weekly Pilates sessions and going for long walks on Dartmoor and the Southwest coastal path. Sonya said: 'I chose to become a governor in a local school because I had had a long teaching career and when I retired, I still felt that I could still be useful in a more strategic way. In a way, I'm still contributing in a school setting as I am able to continue to make a tangible difference in children's lives and their learning. I care about the education that all our children receive and enjoy supporting the pupils and school staff to 'be the best they can be'. It's also rewarding to be part of a team again.'





**Governor Visits** - Our visits to the school enable us to better support strategic decisions and ensure that the school's vision and values are reflected in practice.

Nick Long undertook a review of the Single Central Record with Julia Fuell to ensure that school leaders are keeping up their statutory duties regarding this database, which ensures that the qualifications of staff and essential safeguarding checks are regularly updated and checked.



Sonya Lamoon visited Preschool to discuss the different ways the youngest children are supported to achieve small step targets through observation and next steps planning. We are very fortunate to have an early year's setting on our premises and are justifiably proud of the hardworking team who run Preschool. Thank you to Christie and her lovely team for the incredible care, warmth and dedication they bring to our youngest children every day. Their patience, creativity and commitment to early learning make a big difference to our families and the whole school community.



**Vacancy** - We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor – if our Board sounds like something you'd love to be part of please contact our Chair of Governors, Pauline Morley or our Clerk, Geoff Jones – both their emails are included at the end of this newsletter. We are very friendly supportive team and would love to hear from you!

**Communication** – Visibility builds trust and we would like to improve our channels of communication. We wonder if this termly newsletter is the best way to keep you updated on the work of our Governing Board. There might be other ways we can share key messages about what we do? In the first instance, could let us know if you have read this Newsletter? We can then evaluate and consider some other ways that we might be able to highlight our governor activity without it being overwhelming – we know how busy you all are!



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**Newsletter**  
**Feedback**

(It will take 2 minutes!)

**We would like to thank all the staff and children and parents for a great start to the new school year! We value your input and if you have any feedback or ideas to share then please contact our Chair of Governors.**

**But for now, wrap up, write those lists, eat those mince pies, gather around the Christmas tree and have a wonderful festive break!**

**With best wishes from all of us on the Bishopsteignton Governing Board**



Governor contacts:

Should you wish to contact the Governing Board then please email our Chair of Governors : Pauline Morley- [mrsmorleygov@bishopschool.co.uk](mailto:mrsmorleygov@bishopschool.co.uk) or our Clerk to Governors: Geoff Jones – [clerk1@bishopschool.co.uk](mailto:clerk1@bishopschool.co.uk)

## SCHOOL GOVERNORS

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: Pauline Morley, Co-opted

CO-OPTED GOVERNORS:

Graham Hooker | Pauline Morley | Sonya Lamoon | Dr Adam McCartney | Richard Darcey

PARENT GOVERNORS:

| Jonathan Watson | Nick Long | Richard Rock-Evans

STAFF: Emma Leballeur (Staff Governor) Dave Killoran (Headteacher) | Geoff Jones (Clerk)