

Message from the governors

An enormous thank you

We would like to start with an enormous thank you to our outgoing headteacher. It has been an absolute privilege to work with Andrew Johnson over the last 10 years (a number of our governors were involved in interviewing and appointing Andrew back in 2016) and we are grateful for his commitment to improving the experiences and outcomes for the children of Conifers. He will be very much missed but we wish him all the best in the next stage of his life.

An exciting new chapter

Earlier this year, it was our privilege and responsibility to appoint a new headteacher for our fantastic school. Five governors were involved throughout, with the support of our Education Challenge Leads from Dorset Council and our School Improvement Partner, Carl Thornton. Many hours were spent by governors putting together an advert, and with the expertise of a local graphic designer we were able to show off our school and attract a number of high calibre applicants. Time was spent shortlisting suitable candidates for interview and deciding upon relevant and challenging questions. The two days of interviewing were very intensive with candidates making

presentations to staff, meeting pupils and families, delivering an assembly, and presenting to and answering questions from a full panel. As a result of this rigorous process we are very pleased to have appointed Sara Ellis who we believe will be an excellent addition to our fabulous school. A special thank you to the office staff for their hard work and support throughout the process.

Strategy, support and challenge

As governors, our role is to guide the strategic direction of the school and our “strategy statement” can be found on the school website. We are a “critical friend”, providing support and challenge to the school leadership team to ensure the best outcomes for the children at Conifers. To this end our governors each link with a different area including safeguarding, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) English, Maths, Science, Health and Safety, Early Years & Key Stage 1, Assessment, THRIVE and sustainability. Governors have been in school to meet with leaders and visit classrooms on numerous occasions across the school year. These visits are formally written up and discussed with the full governing body. Governors have also been taking part in training to expand their knowledge and skills. Through spending time in school it has been a privilege to meet pupils and to hear about their experiences at Conifers. We also enjoyed meeting families at the parents' evenings. If you would like to know more about who we are and what we do please take a look at the governors' page on the Conifers website.

And finally...

We hope you all have a wonderful summer and wish the children leaving us success and happiness for the future. We look forward to seeing everyone else again in the autumn term.

We also hope to meet more of you at social events such as Christmas and Summer Fayres as well as parents' evenings next year.

Lastly a huge THANK YOU to the whole of the wonderful Conifers staff team for their hard work and dedication.