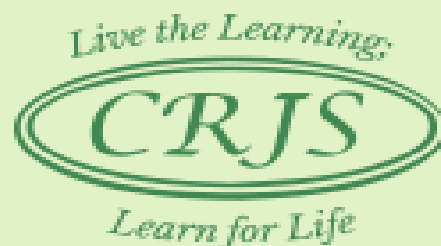


Governor Newsletter

April 2016

Edition 2



Dear Parents and Carers,

In our 2nd newsletter, we would like to update you on the strategic priorities of the Governing Body and the current key issues that face CRJS. I would like to draw attention to a **planned parent consultation in the summer term, more detail below**. As always, please contact me via the school office with issues and concerns. Kind regards,
Brian Ford, Chair of Governors.

The strategic priorities of the Governing Body

1. Supporting the Senior Leadership Team [SLT] in achieving **excellent outcomes for all of the children in this school year**.
2. Ensuring **continuity of leadership** into the next school year, following Head Teacher Maria Martin's retirement.
3. Working closely with the SLT in creating an **ambitious 3-5 year vision** of the outstanding school we wish to become, the strategy to achieve it & the latest School Development Plan.
4. Reviewing the **long term structural options for CRJS**, including considering the impacts for CRJS of the recent Government announcements - more about this on the 2nd page.
5. Continuous process of **improving our effectiveness as a Governing Body**, including training and succession planning.
6. Ensuring **a sustainable budget year on year** and continuing to align resources to the strategic priorities that deliver the highest standards of academic achievement.

Update on the Structure of the Governing Body

- We are delighted to welcome our new Co-Opted Governor **Tom McElligott**. Tom has a wealth of business experience and brings further strategic capability to the GB.
- **Sue Knight**, the new Interim Head Teacher from 1 September, is welcomed as an Associate Governor, and brings significant educational experience to the GB.
- 2 new committees have been recently created:-
 - Personnel Committee - Chair: Mirjana Fowle
 - Strategy Committee - Chair: David Oakley
- The 4 other committees:
 - Premises, Health & Safety – Chair: Tim Fitzgerald
 - Children & Learning – Chair: David Oakley
 - Finance – Chair: Samantha Doyle
 - Pay – Chair: Samantha Doyle

Structure of the Senior Leadership Team

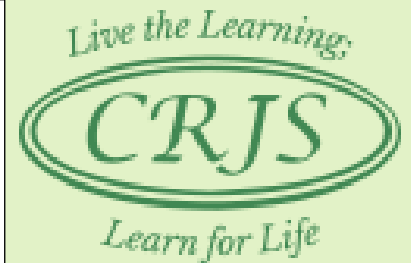
The recent announcement of 3 key changes to the SLT from 1st September will ensure continuity of leadership at CRJS into the new school year: **Sue Knight** will be Interim Head Teacher, supported by **Lisa Culligan** as Acting Assistant Head Teacher and **Laura Smart** as Lower School Team Leader. We would like to congratulate all three on their well-deserved appointments.

Governing Body

Brian Ford - Chair - Co-Opted Governor - English	
Tim Fitzgerald - Vice Chair - Chair – Premises - Co-Opted Governor - Computing; PE	
Lara Cawthra - Parent Governor - Languages; Music	
Lisa Culligan - Staff Governor	
Samantha Doyle - Co-Opted Governor - Chair – Finance; Pay - Maths	
Mirjana Fowle - Parent Governor - Chair - Personnel - Special Ed Needs	
Maria Martin - Head Teacher	
NEW Tom McElligott - Co-Opted Governor - Art & Design	
David Oakley - Co-Opted Governor - Chair – Children & Learning; Strategy - Science; Assessment	
Norman Russell - LA Governor - RE	
Laura Smart - Co-Opted Governor	
Jean Weatherley - Co-Opted Governor - Child Protection & Safeguarding - Geography; History	
NEW Sue Knight - Associate Governor	

Recent Government announcements - academies

- You may have heard about the Government's recently published white paper "Education Excellence Everywhere". This paper will impact schools like ours in the future in many ways.
- It was announced that **every school will be an academy by 2020**.
- An academy is still a state school, but it is funded by and accountable to central Government rather than the Local Authority, as is currently the case for a community school like ours. 1 in 5 primary-age schools have converted to academies so far.



Impact on CRJS of Government plans

- We would like to reassure you about any uncertainty that you might have about our school in the future. Our Strategy Committee is analysing all options available for CRJS. We will keep you informed and will seek your views in a **parent consultation** later in the summer term. We expect this to be in June and will advise with more detail nearer the time.
- We recently informed you that a joint working party has been formed with Governors from Crawley Ridge Infant School, and we are actively exploring together the future opportunities for both schools.

Key outcomes from recent Governing Body Meetings

- The new **National Curriculum**, first introduced in September 2014, is now fully embedded across all year groups. We are pleased to tell you that our children are rising to the significantly higher expectations of this curriculum. The school is continuing to work hard on finding better ways of informing parents about their child's attainment and progress, and we will be introducing a **new termly report** for parents from the start of the new academic year.
- We understand that from time to time, some children need just a little extra support with the emotional aspects of learning. Our C&L committee recently recognised the significant impact on children's development from the support given by our 2 trained **Emotional Literacy Support Assistants [ELSAs]** Jane Turland and Lesley Parrott. The committee agreed with the importance of continuing to fund this extra support to children.
- Our recent **safeguarding audit** has been successfully completed.
- We continue to meet the challenge of **ever tightening budgets** across all schools in England. Tight financial controls have enabled the school to make savings without compromising the high quality education that the school provides.

The Flood

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the leadership shown by the **whole school team**, and their incredible efforts in ensuring continuity of education for the children in the aftermath of the flood, when large parts of the school became inaccessible.

If it were not for the alertness and rapid action of our Caretaker **Bob Phillips** on more than one occasion, the situation could have been far worse and we thank him sincerely.

The **repair work is now complete** and the school will work with Surrey County Council to ensure that all additional costs incurred by the school are fully recovered.

It was truly heartening to see the close community spirit created by parents, children and staff during this difficult time. **Thank you again.**

...and finally: the new CRJS Community Trust Fund

- You will have seen our recent letter sent by Parent Mail, advising of the creation of our new **charitable trust fund**, seeking voluntary donations in support of children's learning, with particular focus on those areas such as music, art and IT.
- We are delighted that **parents Mr. Arnold** and **Mr. Singadia** have offered to act as trustees, joining David Oakley and Sue Knight representing the Governing Body and staff respectively.
- We are grateful for the supportive response and pleased to say that we have **already started receiving voluntary contributions**. In response to feedback from parents, we do commit to full transparency about the intended use of the funds which will always be in support of our children's education and we will update you shortly on this by letter.