Letter from Chair of Governors: 27/9/19

Dear Parents/ carers,

Welcome back to school after the summer break. Can I extend a warm welcome to any new parents to the school. Thank you for choosing Carclaze for your children and I hope they are settling in well.

I have been working as a governor at the school for just over 2 years now. During this academic year I will be stepping up to the role of Chair of Governors.

I wanted to use this opportunity to explain a little about the role of governors in the school and reflect on the successes of last year.

For those of you who haven’t met me I will briefly explain my back story and how I arrived at governance at Carclaze school. I have been a teacher since 1997 and have a wide range of experience within the age range 4-11. I have overseen various subjects during my teaching career and my most recent role was as senior teacher which gave me a taste of working closely with other senior leaders and Headteachers. I was diagnosed with cancer in 2015 and suddenly I was transported into a completely different and unpredictable challenge. During 2017 I was feeling well enough to become involved in education in some capacity and this is when the school approached me about becoming a governor. It has been rewarding to work closely with staff and pupils on their journey of school improvement during the last 2 years and we continue to strive for excellence in all areas of school life.

So what do Governors do? Governors get on and do things which you most probably don’t realise happen: health and safety walks around the school; analysing pupils progress through the school; keeping tabs on projects within the school; building relationships with staff and pupils; supporting and challenging the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team; interviewing potential staff members; making sure that school policies are up-to-date and are part of the culture of Carclaze, observing the curriculum in action in lessons; meeting with subject leaders. The list goes on, but we enjoy what we do and are proud to be part of the journey of continual improvement and desire for excellence at Carclaze School.

The most important thing to note is that Governors are a team, not a collection of individuals or groups with separate agendas. However much we may differ in our opinions and experiences, we are united by our commitment to the school and the responsibility we share for the school’s long term success.  All relevant information about governance at the school is included on the school’s website. Please remember that the website is a good way of keeping up to date with all aspects of school life.

This year we welcome two new parent governors to our board. There are so many aspects of school life that governors are part of that we would always welcome interest from any new governors. Please see the school office if you are interested in becoming a governor.

Governors are extremely pleased with the efforts staff have made towards ensuring our children receive the education they deserve. Attendance has improved, behaviour is good and the Year 6 Sats results have improved for the third year in a row. Our sporting achievements have been many, including netball, football, swimming and running to name a few. We have collaborated well with Penrice and other Trust schools which has been welcomed positively by all.  High quality training for staff has led to improved subject knowledge and the development of the curriculum being provided at Carclaze to ensure that every child has the right to succeed and fulfil their potential and prepare them for their next steps in life. The outdoor areas are attractive, and we are excited about future collaborations with gardening experts in our quest for achieving green awards.

As Chair, I will keep in touch with you with regular updates via the newsletter and I also keep the website up to date with all the relevant information about Carclaze Governance.

 Yours faithfully,

Helen Knight