

Meet the Governors

Adam Phillips My name is Adam Phillips and I am currently Chair of Governors for Thakeham Primary School. Both of my children attended Thakeham Primary School, very well equipped for their next adventures! In that time I had Primary-hand experience of the exceptional ethos and caring environment that staff, parents and children create. Of late, in particular, it has been fantastic to see the impressive and effective drive for improvement across and beyond the curriculum which our children all benefit from so much. It was this that motivated me to volunteer as a parent governor. As a board of Governors it is our great pleasure to work with such talented, able and motivated staff - Headteacher, teachers, teaching assistants, office and premises staff alike. A crucial part of our role is to enable them in any way we can to carry on providing the pupils and community with such a great, caring school and help them in their commitment to continuous improvement for all involved.



Wendy Marrable I am the Vice Chair of the Thakeham Primary School Board of Governors. I live in Billingshurst and am married with 2 grown up children. I am a retired Civil Servant having worked for what was the Inland Revenue for a period of 34 years. On retirement I became a Magistrate and served on the Sussex Northern Bench both in Adult and Family Courts until 2015. I have always been interested in Education and therefore volunteered to become a School Governor in the hope that some of the knowledge and experience I have gained over the years would be of some benefit to the Local Community. I very much enjoy being part of the "Thakeham Primary School Community."



Sam Norton

I am proud to be Headteacher and Staff Governor at Thakeham Primary School leading a dedicated team of staff and governors to ensure the very best learning opportunities for each and every child. Our wonderful children, caring family ethos with strong parent and community support, really make Thakeham a very special place for our children to learn and grow. Becoming a primary school and relocating to our new site at Rock Road is an exciting phase in the school's history which will see children benefit from even greater opportunities with improved facilities and resources on site.

One of the joys of working in a small school is getting to know the children each by name, ability and nature, our school just like every child within it, is truly unique!

Emma Hopkins

I am a Staff Governor and Senior Teacher at Thakeham Primary School. I have been teaching for twenty years and have held the position of Deputy Head and staff governor in another West Sussex school.

I joined Thakeham over four years ago as the PPA music specialist and have continued to develop music throughout the school. I am currently a Key Stage 2 teacher coordinating English, Music and History across the school. I am passionate about enabling each and every member of our community to achieve their best and to enjoy their time spent learning.

As Governor, I am able to work closely with a dedicated team who have the child at the centre of everything they do.

Judith James I have been working in Education for over 40 years and more recently been Headteacher of two schools in West Sussex. I have experience of working with Governing bodies to lead school improvement and make decisions to ensure the best possible education for the children. I have enjoyed leading and facilitating training courses for teachers and INSET days for staff, parents and governors. During my time working in schools, I have always enjoyed good working relationships with children, staff, parents, governors and all outside agencies. I have a passion for learning, especially in the Early Years and I currently work as an Associate Link Tutor at Chichester University, where I teach Art to the students and also mentor students on their placements. Being a governor at Thakeham will enable me to support the head to realise her vision and continue the improvements she has successfully made so far.



Jane Blunden I've been involved with education throughout my working life as an editor for academic and educational book publishers. In my spare time I've also been chair of a local Save the Children fund-raising committee, and a case-worker for the National Missing Persons Helpline. Since 1989 I've been a magistrate in South-West London. I sit in the adult court, and until recently was on the youth panel as well.



I live in Thakeham and have been a Co-opted Governor at Thakeham School since 2014. We aim to provide the best possible start in life for our children, and I really enjoy working with the Head, staff and other governors to achieve this. I'm on the Resources and Strategic Management Committee, and this year have a particular interest in assessment.

I look forward to supporting the school during the exciting year ahead on our new site where the children can grow and develop their skills in a new and exciting environment.

Hazel Eldridge

I have been a teacher for most of my working life. I qualified and taught in London before getting married. When our two sons started school I returned to teaching. I taught at Millais Girls School in Horsham, for nearly thirty years and during that time I was Head of Subject, Head of Year and Director of Learning for Technology and ICT. I enjoyed the challenge of upgrading GCSE results in the department, improving standards of teaching, re-working the assessment and introducing new courses, including GCSE in computing.



Since I retired from Millais I have been working part-time at The Weald School, Billingshurst where I have supported and trained a teacher in the Technology department.

I feel very privileged to be part of the governing team at Thakeham Primary School. I look forward to supporting the head-teacher with her ongoing improvements and assist with her desire to ensure that all the pupils receive the best possible education.

Amanda Otto

I am the proud mum of Brooklyn and Bradley. We have lived in Thakeham for the past few years. Brook is currently at Thakeham and hopefully Bradley will also attend, hence, having an interest in the progression of the school now and in the years to come with the exciting opportunities becoming a Primary School will bring. We live on the dairy farm at the end of The Street where my husband Calvin runs the herd of 220 pedigree Holsteins for the Binnings.



I own a local embroidery, printing and engraving company. I have had the privilege of embroidering the new school logo on the new primary school uniform. My company is based at home on the farm and this keeps me flexible being able to juggle the business and the children. In the past I have worked as a supervisor at Homebase which included a number of different responsibilities including running the cash office.

I have a keen interest in the equine industry and studied equine nutrition at university amongst other equine qualifications. We like to travel when we get the time, and have done many trips to South-Africa in the past. We enjoy spending quality family time together wherever possible.

Cheryl Stockwell

I am a Parent Governor and have 2 children at Thakeham Primary School. I work from home as a Book-keeper and Credit Controller and prior to that had always worked within Accounts based rolls with both multi-national companies and small businesses. I have a good understanding of Finance and Business Operations.

I have become a Governor as I feel I have the time and qualities needed to undertake such a role.



Gilly Hall

As well as being a proud mum to Maddie and Poppy, who both attend Thakeham Primary, I am an active musician. I play the bassoon and spend many weekends performing in orchestral and choral concerts. Having studied music at Oxford, I went on to be Head of Quality Assurance at ABRSM, an international music exam board. The team I worked with were responsible for the training and monitoring of over 700 examiners which was a pretty tall order at times. After having my second daughter, I left ABRSM and now work part-time in finance.



I am a passionate believer that children need the arts in their lives more than ever, and that nurturing creativity is so important - not only for their well-being but also for their ability to perform in all areas of life. Music in particular requires not only creativity but analytical and maths skills, the ability to really listen, cooperation, teamwork, perseverance and determination - all attributes which are so useful whatever path they choose to take.

I am delighted to be part of the team of Governors at Thakeham and look forward to ensuring that our children get the best possible start to their time in education.