

# Update

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE COMBE DOWN GOVERNING BODY

ISSUE 3/NOVEMBER 2011

## IN THIS ISSUE

[Update from the Chair of Governors](#)

[How to get involved](#)

[Meet the Governing Body](#)

[Talk to a Governor](#)



COMBE DOWN  
CEVC Primary School

## Welcome

This is the third update from the Governing Body (GB). These updates are designed to give you a flavour of what the GB does, our ambitions for the school, the key issues we are working on right now and how you can find out more.

The GB plays a vital role in the management of the school and we could not do it without the involvement of many people. If you would like to challenge what we do, to suggest what improvements we can help champion to assist us in the work we do please do contact us via the feedback email address or the monthly Governors surgery that you will find details of in this newsletter.

**Karen Coates** Chair of the Governing Body.

## Come to a meeting

The GB meetings are open to all. Our last visitor, parent Martin Wright said

*'I found it very interesting. It gave me a real insight into the issues the Governors are tackling and how I might be able to best use the limited time I have to support the work that needs to be done'.*

The recent governor presentation delivered on Monday 8th is available on the school website

The next meeting is on Thursday 1/12/11. If you'd like to come please contact us on **feedback@combedown.com**.

Future meetings are planned for

Tuesday 31/1/12

Tuesday 27/3/12

Tuesday 22/5/12

Tuesday 10/7/12

**Comments?** Email [feedback@combedown.com](mailto:feedback@combedown.com) or feedback via the box in the Log Cabin

# From the Chair of Governors

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## Karen Coates Chair of the Governing Body

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Although we are now well into the year, this is the first opportunity to say "Welcome back" to all our existing parents and a special "Welcome" to all our new parents. Last year the Governing Body was very much focussed on working with the school to deal with the issues raised by the July 2010 Ofsted inspection.

As you will all be aware, we had a further Ofsted inspection in September following which the Notice to Improve was lifted. There is still much to do, but I would like to thank all the staff who worked extremely hard last year implementing new assessment and monitoring procedures. I would also like to thank the governors, particularly those on the curriculum committee, who spent many hours pouring over and analysing data to ensure that all our pupils were being given the means to reach their full potential.

With all the policies and procedures that we have to put in place and monitor it can be easy to lose sight of the fact that at the end of the day the

most important thing is the welfare of each and every one of our pupils.

The Governors' role is as a "critical friend" both challenging and supporting staff. This is not always an easy line to tread. This year the governors will continue with their monitoring work. We will also ensure that resources are deployed as effectively as possible. As with everyone else, we have to make less money go further and so, with the help of Vanessa Gates, the School Business Manager, we have to explore ways to make the money go further as creatively as possible.

However, we also want to give staff more support this year (the "friend" part of the governor role). Therefore each governor has linked with at least one curriculum subject area and all will be seeing their linked subject leader at least three times during the school year to see first-hand how that particular subject is being taught in the school and to better understand any particular issues that there may be. For example, we already knew before the Ofsted report, that we would need to look at the teaching of maths in KS1 and the link governor will be looking at this with the maths co-ordinators.

Another task is to further improve communication with parents. This month will see the launch of the Governor Surgery which will give parents/carers an opportunity once a month to speak to a governor face to face. The names of the Governor and their link subjects are shown below, if you have any questions around a particular subject area you can speak to the governor, who will be able to put you in touch with the right person, as necessary. More details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year we will also be looking at the Behaviour Policy. Inconsistent implementation is something that both the parent and staff questionnaires have highlighted and so the governors will be working with the school to address this

Of course the day to day responsibilities of the Governing Body continues: monitoring the budget; ensuring all school policies and procedures, including all child protection matters, are in place and up to date; looking after the school buildings and examining what else we can do to improve the site given limited resources. All in all it promises to be another busy year for the Governing Body.

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## Get involved...

**You can make a real difference to the future of Combe Down Primary School.**

We have a parent governor vacancy, if you are interested in supporting the Governing Body with its vital work we would encourage you to stand in elections which will be held in 2012. We would welcome a wide range of support be it your energy, expertise and time or financial support or access to other resources.

# Meet the Governing Body

## Full Governing Body

*Chair* Karen Coates

*Deputy Chair* Tim Dewes

*HT* Richard Bullard

*Deputy Head* Alun Randell

*SBM* Vanessa Gates

*Clerk* Jenny Armstrong

*Associate Governor*

Gareth Simons

Mark Gallen

Matt Wheeldon

Heather Voutt

Joan Pearce

Sanjeev Chaddha

David Locke

Paul Kennedy

Nicola Mathews

## Curriculum

*Chair* David Locke

Jo Childs-Evans

Gareth Simons

Nicola Mathews

Alun Randell

*Ex-Officio Staff Member*

Antony Wainer

*Teacher Vacancy*

## Finance and Staffing

*Chair* Sanjeev Chaddha

Richard Bullard

Vanessa Gates

Tim Dewes

Paul Kennedy

Mark Gallen

## Land and Building

*Chair* Matt Wheeldon

Joan Pearce

Heather Voutt

Karen Coates

## Talk to a governor

**Date:** 7th December

**Time:** 3.15pm – 4.15pm

From December we are starting a monthly 'surgery' where parents can talk to a governor to find out what is going on, make a suggestion or voice their concerns.

Meet Parent Governor, and Chair of the Finance and Staffing Committee, Sanjeev Chaddha and Nicola Mathews parent governor, member of the curriculum committee and a member of the parent forum between 3.15 and 4.15 in the School Hall foyer on Wednesday 7th December.

They will do their best to answer any questions about the school, the Governing Body, the work of the Finance and Staffing Committee, the work of the parent forum or the curriculum committee.

They can also help you direct questions to other Governors or to escalate issues, complaints or suggestions if appropriate. If you would like to get involved with the work of the Governing Body Sanjeev and Nicola can also help.

## Governors Support the Parent Forum

The governors would like to support the parent forum and to listen to the views of parents through this channel on the subjects that are discussed. Nicky Matthews Parent Governor (Curriculum Committee) is a member of the Parent Forum and is able to represent the views of parents at governor level. This interfacing may provide governors with information which may help to inform policy decisions to ensure that we attain the highest possible outcomes for children.

**Comments?** Email [feedback@combedown.com](mailto:feedback@combedown.com) or feedback via the box in the Log Cabin