



Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Voting for Parent Representatives on the Governing Board – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

I am writing to inform you about an update to the voting process for electing new parent representatives to our governing board. After careful consideration, we have decided to revert to a **paper ballot system** to ensure the process is straightforward, secure, and inclusive for all.

Below, you will find detailed instructions on how to cast your vote.

**Voting Instructions**

**In-Person Voting:**

1. A table will be set up in the school car park on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 8:30 am – 9:00 am and 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm.
2. When you arrive, your name will be checked against the voter list.
3. Once your name has been verified and marked off, you will receive a ballot paper.
4. Complete the ballot paper in private.
5. Place your completed ballot paper into the sealed ballot box provided.

*Please note* – if your child attends breakfast / after-school club, there will be an opportunity to cast your vote when dropping your child(ren) to breakfast club / collecting your child(ren) from after school club.

**Postal Voting (for those unable to vote in person):**

1. Contact the school office by Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January to request a postal voting pack.
2. The pack will include:
  - A ballot paper.
  - An envelope for your completed vote. (You will have to provide a stamp if you wish to return your vote by mail).
3. Place the completed ballot paper in the envelope provided.
4. Clearly write your full name on the envelope. (This is for verification purposes only; your vote will remain anonymous).
5. Return the envelope to the school by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February via post or by dropping it off at the school office.

**Important Notes:**

- Each parent or carer may only vote once, regardless of how many children they have at the school.
- To ensure anonymity, only your name will be checked for eligibility. The contents of your vote will remain confidential.
- The deadline for all votes to be received is 3:00 pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

As a reminder, we have three parent nominees:

#### **Parent A**

As a parent of two young children, my eldest (5) started school this year. I would like to be part of the parent governors to help provide a voice for parents from all backgrounds, to raise issues and concerns directly to the school on your behalf. As my children start their journey within the school, I wish to help make a difference to our children's education over the next term, and with my experience working for the trade union UNISON specialising in Schools and academies, I hope to use my expertise and knowledge to hold the school to account and give parents the much needed voice at the school.

#### **Parent B**

I am a grandmother to two children within the school. I am a qualified Youth Worker and Counsellor. I have worked with young people for 20+ years in Youth Settings and Education. Last year my husband and I delivered the Whole School Forest days for the school as one of our passions is educating young people in nature, which we believe encourages resilience and how to safely assess risk. I am passionate about helping young people to develop and achieve their best potential. I feel that I have many skills and expertise that I could bring to this role.

#### **Parent C**

I've been a parent at Blandford St Mary since 2013, with my three children attending the school. As Manager of Little Birch Pre-School since 2019 and a former Chair of its committee, I've built great relationships with many school families and understand what's important to them. I'm a qualified Early Years Teacher, a member of the Dorset Safeguarding Board, and previously worked as a Finance Analyst for Barclays Wealth Management. My background in education and finance gives me useful skills to help the school grow and succeed. I'm passionate about supporting the school and making sure it continues to thrive for the whole community.

We thank you for your cooperation and participation in this important process. If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Kindest regards



Mrs Rosaleen Beaver

Headteacher

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