Dear Parent or Carer,

**PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION**

I am writing to invite you to stand for election as a parent governor or nominate another parent to do so. We have provision for one parent governor. Nominations must be from parents or carers with children at the school on the day that nominations close.

The governing body, which includes the Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school and it has three core functions:

* Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
* Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
* Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

We would particularly welcome nominations from parents of children in year 5 & 6 as the term is 4 years. The role would most suit someone who might work part-time or less and has 6-8 hours free per month to attend meetings, read information and attend school visits/events (term time only). However, the essential qualification needed is a keen interest in the school and a willingness to play an active part in the governing body’s work. New governors are given general training as well as specialised safeguarding and prevent training. The successful candidates will be joining the governing body as we continue to address the challenges of our recent Ofsted report.

The enclosed sheet gives a summary of the circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a governor. Parents or carers who have paid employment in the school for 500 hours or more per academic year or are elected members of the Local Authority are not eligible to stand in these elections.

Candidates need to complete the enclosed nomination form and return it to the school no later than 3pm on Friday 15th October 2021. Please attach a short personal statement, no more than 250 words, to support your nomination. Self-nominations will be accepted and if you are nominating another parent please seek their prior consent.

In the event of more nominations than vacancies, the election will be by secret ballot. If that is necessary, details will be sent to all parents together with details of the ballot procedure.

If you would like a printed copy of these documents, please email aosborn@stosmunds.dorset.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Amanda Osborn

Returning Officer.