

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of a busy and rewarding Autumn Term, the Governing Body would like to share an update on our work, our priorities and some of the developments shaping the year ahead.

We remain committed to ensuring that every decision we make supports the best possible outcomes for all pupils, strengthens our whole-school community and reflects the values at the heart of the school.

The Governors

Governance Updates

We begin by expressing our sincere thanks to **Rob MacDonald**, **Tom Bouet** and **Mr Griffin** for their dedicated service as Governors. Their contributions to our committees, visits and strategic discussions have greatly supported the forward direction of the school.

We are delighted to welcome **Olly Morley** as our newest Governor, as well as **Philippa Berry** as our staff governor, who will bring a valuable professional perspective to governance. We are looking to recruit a co-opted governor in the near future. All local recommendations are welcome.

There has also been a small change to our leadership structure: **Dawn Martin** has now taken on the role of **Chair of Governors** and **Tom Plowman** has become **Vice Chair**. We look forward to continuing to support the school with a strong and experienced leadership team

The role of the Governors continues to provide strategic oversight, hold leaders to account for the educational performance and well-being of pupils, ensure financial resources are used effectively and support the school's long-term vision and values.

Our current school priorities

This year, the Governing Body is working closely with Mrs Newbold to monitor progress against three key priorities:

1. Quality of Teaching (QfT) leading to strong progress for all pupils

We continue to look at how teaching develops across all year groups, ensuring every pupil—regardless of starting point—can achieve their potential. Recent learning walks and curriculum reviews show encouraging consistency and ambition.

2. Inclusion in its widest sense

The school remains committed to meeting the needs of all children, including those with SEND, those who are disadvantaged, and pupils who may need pastoral or emotional support. We have been pleased to see strengthened early-help processes and good communication with families.

3. Outreach and wider community engagement

The school continues to support other schools locally and is celebrating the recent achievement of the **Eco Schools Green Flag** and working towards the **Rainbow Award**. These projects not only enrich our pupils' experiences but also strengthen community values. Keep an eye out for the new flag to be put up in the school grounds soon!

Financial Stewardship

School budgets continue to be under considerable pressure nationally. As a Governing Body, we are committed to making the **right decisions**, even when they are difficult ones. Our priority remains ensuring funding is directed where it matters most: teaching, learning, well-being and children's day-to-day school experience.

Responding to National and Local Changes

New Ofsted Framework

We are already making subtle but important adjustments in response to the updated Ofsted schedule and expectations. Leaders are ensuring that curriculum intent, implementation and impact are clearly articulated, and that safeguarding practices continue to remain robust.

Parent Survey

Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the recent parental survey. Your feedback is invaluable and has already informed elements of our strategic focus, including communication, uniform updates, wraparound care, and support for homework routines.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains our highest priority. This term, Governors have undertaken checks on record-keeping, safer recruitment, and the Single Central Record. We continue to support staff training and ensure compliance with the latest statutory guidance.

Attendance and Wellbeing

We are pleased to see attendance improving across the school. Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure children are in school and ready to learn. Wellbeing, both for pupils and staff, remains a strong focus for us as a governing body.

Community and Volunteering

We continue to be grateful for volunteers who support reading, gardening, clubs, and educational visits. Your contributions make a real difference and help the school offer more than it could alone.

Enrichment, Clubs and Curriculum Highlights

This term has been full of enriching opportunities. Governors have enjoyed hearing about:

- New reading initiatives promoting daily reading
- Outdoor learning
- Class assemblies and themed days
- Sporting fixtures and inter-school competitions

These experiences are central to the school's vision of providing a broad, joyful and challenging curriculum.

Seasonal Events and Thanks

The Christmas concerts, nativities and festive celebrations have been a joy to share, filling the school with music, creativity and an unmistakable sense of joy. These events are always a highlight of the year and the Governing Body very much treasured joining families in celebrating the hard work, confidence and enthusiasm shown by the children. The dedication of staff in bringing these occasions to life: rehearsing songs, crafting costumes, preparing stages, and supporting pupils behind the scenes, never goes unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

As we step into the final weeks of term, we are reminded of the warmth and togetherness that make this school such a special community. Whether it's the energy of the playground, the buzz of the classrooms, or the quiet acts of kindness that happen every day, the school continues to be a place where children thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all pupils, families, and staff a **happy, safe, and restful festive season**. Thank you for your continued support of the school, its values and its long-term vision.