

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

As we approach the end of a busy and productive **Spring Term**, the Governing Body would like to take this opportunity to share an update on our work, our priorities and some of the developments shaping the remainder of the academic year.

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**

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.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Gemma Lovegrove who has worked tirelessly in the position of Clerk to organise and minute the governors' meetings for several years. We are grateful for her hard work and significant contributions to the governing body.

Taking on the responsibility is Nicola Milton, who has joined us for our recent governors' meeting and is poised to continue the work of clerk moving forward.

We also welcome Sue Fishbourne as a new co-opted governor, who brings a breadth of experience and knowledge into the role.

We always welcome expressions of interest for new governors, please speak to Rachel Coxon in the school office if you would like to put yourself forward.

## A Small School Hub Of Excellence

Barns Green Primary School continues to grow its reputation as a small school hub of excellence. Our relatively small size allows every child to be truly known and valued, while the dedication of staff ensures that pupils benefit from an ambitious curriculum and a wide range of opportunities that help them flourish both academically and personally.

The strong sense of community that surrounds the school, combined with high expectations and a commitment to nurturing each child's potential, makes Barns Green a very special place to learn and grow. Governors are proud to support the continued development of this vision.



## Rainbow Award

During the Spring Term, the school was delighted to achieve the Rainbow Flag Award, a nationally recognised accreditation that celebrates a school's commitment to inclusion, equality and respect for all members of its community. The award recognises the work undertaken by the school to promote understanding, challenge discrimination and ensure that every child feels safe and valued. As part of the assessment process, governors were interviewed alongside staff and pupils to demonstrate how these values are supported at every level of school leadership. Governors would like to congratulate the staff and pupils for their dedication in achieving this.

## Thank You Staff

Because of our dedicated staff, Barns Green Primary School is an inclusive and welcoming place for children, teachers, leaders and all other staff and visitors. Our staff are committed to giving every pupil the best possible start in life and they deserve the appreciation and respect of the entire community.

There is no place in our school for violence or aggression, whether that be physical, verbal or through social media. To reinforce this message and help make sure everyone is clear that our school is a safe, kind and inclusive place, Barns Green Primary School will continue to apply the 'No Excuse for Abuse' approach to prevent and deal appropriately with incidents.

We would like to thank all our staff for putting the wellbeing of our children first and for providing so many opportunities for them to have fun, to achieve and to thrive.

We will NOT tolerate behaviour that is:

- 🚫 thre@tening,
- 🚫 abusive or
- 🚫 vi\*lent

**NO  
EXCUSE  
FOR  
ABUSE**

We strive to create a safe and secure environment for pupils and staff alike.  
**And we WILL take action when necessary.**

Our school is a **welcoming, safe** and **inclusive** place where we all show respect and look out for each other.

**SAFE  
KIND**   
**INCLUSIVE**

**Everyone benefits** from a positive school culture, and **everyone has a part to play** –  
**thank you for playing yours.**

## **Safeguarding Monitoring Visit**

During the Spring Term, the Safeguarding Governor carried out a monitoring visit to review the school's safeguarding culture and speak directly with pupils about their experiences. Seven pupils from across the school took part in pupil voice discussions and spoke very confidently about how safe they feel at Barns Green. Pupils demonstrated a strong awareness of the school's safety procedures, including fire and lockdown drills, and were able to explain the school's visitor lanyard system. They were clear that if they ever had a worry they would speak to a teacher or another trusted adult and expressed confidence that staff would listen and help them.

Pupils also showed an impressive understanding of wider safeguarding themes. They were able to explain the difference between safe and unsafe secrets, talked about supporting friends who might be worried and demonstrated strong awareness of online safety, including safe passwords, online scams and what to do if something online makes them feel uncomfortable. Pupils also referred to assemblies and workshops, such as a recent Dogs' Trust session on animal safety, which highlights how safeguarding is reinforced through the curriculum and wider school activities. Governors were pleased to see such a strong culture of safety and awareness among pupils.

## **Thank You For Your Ongoing Support**

As we look ahead to the arrival of spring and the Easter break, governors would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support of the school and the wider community. The partnership between home and school is central to the success of Barns Green Primary School, and governors greatly value the engagement, encouragement and feedback that families provide throughout the year. We wish all families a restful and enjoyable Easter break and look forward to continuing to work together in the Summer Term to support the ongoing development and success of the school.