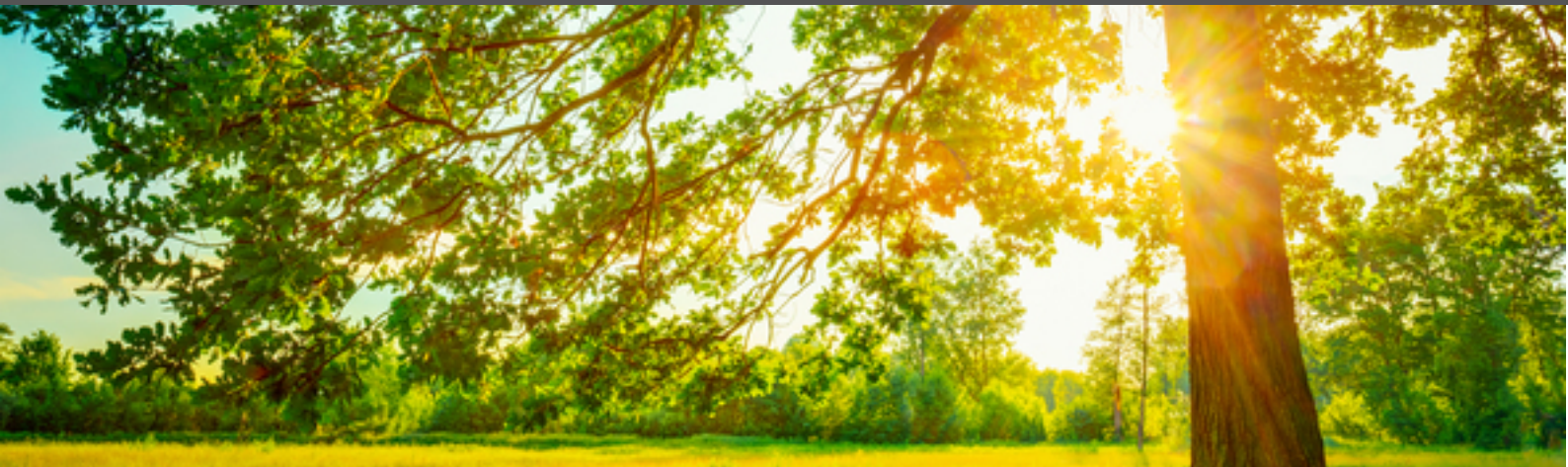


Summer term 2023

Governor update



Welcome to the summer term update from the Governors. We hope that everyone is enjoying the longer days and that warmer weather will arrive soon!

Our school continues to undergo a great deal of change – so we thought we'd update you on some of our key activities.

Staffing Changes

Four Governors were involved in the Deputy Head recruitment process. Mrs Newbold has already shared details, but we're delighted to welcome Ms Holly Bishop to the staffing team. Ms Bishop has in-depth curriculum development experience, and demonstrated an innovative and creative approach.

The Governors work closely with the leadership team to monitor and track progress – through observations, reports and pupil forums. We're excited to work closely with the new leadership team to help drive improvements and expectations. We'll keep you up-to-date on our progress.

School Development Plan

Our School Development Plan outlines the school's priorities and strategies for achieving them. Key priorities are to create a cohesive curriculum that builds upon prior learning and to develop Subject Leader roles – especially for the 'foundation subjects' like humanities. Together we have defined our curriculum driver words – 'creative', 'memorable', 'inclusive' and 'ambitious' – these values underpin everything we do.

The Governors have visited the school to monitor the progress in Geography and History and found that the use of Cornerstones provides a framework that ensures every child can access the full National Curriculum for these subjects.

We have observed children making stronger connections between subjects. Some examples include:

Fox Class making links from their studies of polar regions to their 'Life in the Freezer' topic in Y2.
Hedgehog Class made links between their study of London in 'Bright Lights, Big City' and the story of Dick Whittington.

We continue to observe that children at our school are proud to share their learning and are becoming more effective at articulating it using subject specific vocabulary.

Governor and Staff Morning

On the morning of the 25th May, the Governors have an opportunity to see the school in action. We'll visit classes and see what the experience of school is like from the perspective of both children and teachers.

This will increase understanding of our school context and we hope it will be particularly helpful to those Governors who do not have a background in education. This insight will allow for further support and challenge over the coming months.

Farewell to Peter Bird

Peter has decided to leave the Board of Governors at the end of the year, after 13 years of faithful service. It's impossible to cover everything he's contributed to the school in this newsletter, but during this time he's had a HUGE impact on the school.

As Safeguarding Governor, Peter has played an integral part in ensuring that Safeguarding at the school is the best it can be. Peter has also helped to appoint a number of key staff including the new Head and Deputy. Until this year, Peter has been Vice-Chair of Governors, ably supporting five Chairs to move the school forward.

Peter was involved in designing the new school buildings in 2016 and his favourite Governor activities always involve the children. He loves pupil voice interviews and helping at special events, such as the Science Day.

Peter's long service has enabled him to provide Governors with a contextual overview of the school's improvement journey. Peter wanted to remain a Governor until he felt the school was in a strong position – and it is now!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for all his hard work and dedication, and wish him the very best for the future.

thank you

IT improvements

One of our newest Governors, Simon Gale has been working closely with Mrs Coxon and Mrs Newbold to update and improve the school's IT facilities. After undertaking a comprehensive hardware and systems audit, the following improvements have been made:

- Updated and improved the contract with our IT provider, to include ongoing support that ensures our IT systems and access are kept up to date and secure.
- During the Easter holiday Simon worked with our IT provider to repair and bring all equipment up to a secure standard. This included old kit in storage that can now be utilised by the staff and pupils.
- The WiFi has been upgraded and new security measures have been put in place.

Next steps:

- Looking to move to a cloud based solution, so IT management in the school becomes easier and more flexible.
- Reviewing laptops and other hardware – with a view to eventually replacing old/buying new equipment.

There is a lot going on this term; with Sports Day, Open Evenings, Year 6 leavers activities and various other events and activities. The governors always endeavour to attend as many events as we can - so we hope to see you out and about over the next few months.

If you would like to contact the governors please email: clerk@barnsgreen.org.uk or anicholson@barnsgreen.org.uk