

Summer term 2024

Governor update



Welcome to the final update of this academic year from the Governors. I think it's fair to say we've all been looking forward to more sunshine and less rain. It feels like summer has been a long time coming! Our school continues to undergo a great deal of change, so here are some highlights since the previous newsletter.

Getting Ofsted ready

Acting on feedback from the last Ofsted review, continues to be our no.1 priority. We have been making excellent progress, evidenced by the positive feedback from the WSCC monitoring visits in November and May.

Work is continuous and ongoing. Well done and thank you to Mrs Newbold and all staff for their ongoing hard work and dedication to improving our school every day.

Strategic planning

Many of the governors got together in March for a Strategic planning session. It was an opportunity for us to focus on long term goals, as opposed to the day to day monitoring and other tasks we focus on at our Full Governing Body (FGB) meetings.

We re-visited the school values, and discussed matters relating to budget, cohort, staffing, Ofsted, the national framework and local opportunities. We also discussed the School Development plan, making sure we're Ofsted ready and where we are with Curriculum improvements.

In terms of the longer term future, our conversations focused on:

- **School expansion** - we're exploring steps we'd need to take to become a single form entry school. We've already gained Itchingfield Parish Council's support to expand our (published admissions number) PAN from 20 to 30, before building new schools at Southwater and Billingshurst. So watch this space for updates.
- **Academy** - we discussed the pros and cons of joining an Academy chain. There are no plans to progress this currently, but we'll keep this under review.
- **Website improvement** - continues to be a priority but we don't have budget to support. We're hopeful that savings from our solar panels (which were £500 in March 24 alone), may provide additional funding.

Solar panels

Since the new solar panels were installed, we've made an approx. 25% saving on the school's electricity and energy bills.

Not only is this beneficial for the environment and helps us move closer to becoming a 'green' school, these budget savings mean that precious funds can be re-deployed elsewhere.



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

School Development Plan

A key driver of school improvement is the School Development plan, which Mrs Newbold and the staff have been updating these past few months. It's a 1 year plan, split out into 4 key areas:

QUALITY OF EDUCATION – for our pupils to develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum and, as a result, achieve well.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT – to provide pupils with meaningful opportunities to understand how to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society.

BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES – our pupils' attitudes to their education are extremely positive. They're committed to their learning, know how to study effectively and do so. They take pride in their achievements

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT – our staff consistently report high levels of support for wellbeing issues and are clear on the direction the school is taking.

The Governors and staff review the School Development Plan on a regular basis, it's a key part of our responsibility in overseeing the continuous improvement and effective operation of the school.