

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the autumn term well underway, we're thrilled to reconnect with our wonderful school community and share all the exciting updates and progress we've made together. The partnership between home and school plays a crucial role in shaping the experiences and achievements of our children, and we deeply value your continued support and involvement.

This newsletter is an opportunity to keep you informed about the work of the governing body, the progress of our school, and the initiatives we are pursuing to ensure every child thrives. Together, we are committed to fostering an environment where we can *discover the best in all* our children..

Thank you for being an integral part of our school family, and we look forward to sharing the highlights of this term with you.

The Governors

Ofsted Visit

We were delighted that our Ofsted visit on 8th and 9th October confirmed that our school is now securely 'good' across all five categories: quality of education, personal development, behaviour, leadership and management and early years.

This is testament to the hard work of the new leadership team and all the staff who have striven relentlessly to address the issues from the previous inspection and to ensure that our children receive the best education we can provide.

'Pupils flourish in this incredibly nurturing and harmonious place.' - Mrs Akram, HMI

The inspection is an important milestone on our journey to excellence and the strong support of our local community was recognised. Mrs Akram, His Majesty's Inspector (HMI), recognised personal development as the '*jewel in the crown*'...

You can find the full report [here](#).

Strategic Planning

Governors have worked closely with staff to draw up our Strategic Plan (2024 – 2027) outlining our longer term aims for the school. The key priorities are:

- **The number of pupils on roll increases and the school moves towards becoming one form entry.**

Among other things, this would remove the need for a three year rolling curriculum cycle.

- **We are a small school hub of excellence.**

Our experiences of managing the National Curriculum across mixed age classes, ensuring that every child receives their full entitlement, mean that we now have the capacity to support other schools. We are also working closely with the West Sussex Maths Hub and Mr Griffin is completing Maths Leadership training with them, prior to strengthening practice in other schools.

- **The school promotes itself effectively through raising its public profile.**

We have much to celebrate and be proud of. We need to ensure that we share this effectively. One of our first steps is to relaunch the school website with a more modern, easily navigable version. You can all help by using word-of-mouth and social media to share our success stories.

Solar Panels

At the end of September, eleven months after installation, our solar panels have already saved the school **£8067.68** in electricity costs. Because of the grants we received, this means we have already recouped our initial investment of £5,000. Every pound saved from this point forward will directly benefit our children, allowing us to reinvest in resources, learning opportunities, and projects that enhance their education and wellbeing. We are excited to see how these ongoing savings will support the future growth of our school community.

New Governors

Following the resignation of **Peter Bird** a year ago, the Governing Body took some time to take stock of our collaborative skills and to identify gaps. We then asked for volunteers and were delighted when three candidates stepped forward giving us the luxury of selecting the candidates who were best placed to address the gaps in our skills. At the same time, **Victoria Baxter**, who had been a very active Governor for five years, decided to step down. Victoria's portfolio included 'Communication' and she revamped our website, making sure it was fit for purpose despite the technical challenges that accompanied its age. She also introduced these termly Governor newsletters. Victoria also championed 'wellbeing' for all staff, pupils and volunteers, raising its profile impressively. She has left an impressive legacy and will be missed.

We welcome two new Governors. **Jessica Martin** lives in Barns Green with her husband and young daughter. She works as a doctor in Surrey and will use her experience of child development and safeguarding to do what she can to support the school to succeed in providing an excellent education for our children.



Richard Bates has a child in year 1 at the school as well as a preschooler. He is a Deputy Headteacher in a large primary school in Surrey, has experience in senior leadership, including leading on curriculum, teaching and learning, inclusion and being safeguarding lead. He is looking forward to helping the school to grow over the coming years.

We are also really pleased that **Tom Plowman** has agreed to continue as Chair of the board, despite fitting a new baby into his already busy schedule, and **Rob MacDonald** has agreed to continue in the Vice Chair role. We are fortunate to have a really strong team who will always make themselves available if any member of our community would like to discuss anything.

We are very grateful for the voluntary contribution that all our dedicated Governors make.