



GALLEYWOOD GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

2020-2021

As I sat down to write this newsletter I was flicking through the school's website. My eye was drawn to a particular sentence in the vision statement. It reads –

*'We aim to develop confident, thoughtful individuals who take **ownership** of their learning, **persevere** in order to succeed and feel **proud** of their achievements.'*

I am sure you will agree with me that in this most challenging year, the children have taken **ownership** of their learning and without a doubt, have **persevered**. I know that all the staff are extremely **proud** of how well they have coped with being in and out of school throughout the year.

Of course, it is not just the children who have persevered during the past year. On behalf of the Governing Body I would like to thank Mrs Manning, her leadership team, staff, parents and carers for the positive way in which they met and constantly adapted to different situations caused by the pandemic. The school made it a priority to provide a safe place for children of key workers whilst also ensuring that those at home had high quality learning packages delivered to their doorstep as well as effective remote learning.

In spite of the many challenges, Galleywood Infant School continued to be a happy, exciting and successful place for everyone. The school has many strengths, especially the high standard of teaching and the children's excellent behaviour and attitude to learning.

The Governing Body

The role of the Governing Body is crucial for the effective leadership and management of the school. Our work is part of the inspection process should Ofsted call!

Currently, there are 12 governors who come from a variety of backgrounds but who have an interest in education. Some governors have been elected by the parents and carers of children at the school whilst others are staff members. There is also a governor elected through the local authority and some who have been co-opted.

During the last year a few long standing governors have decided to resign from their position either because they moved out of the area or came to the end of their term of office. They are, Matthew Lewis, Komel Bajwe, Liz McCarthy and Tony Golden. I would like to thank them for their service and contribution to the work of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body meets in full 6 times a year. During the past year most of these meetings have had to be via Zoom but we have still ensured that we met all our statutory duties as well as closely monitoring the work of the school. The meetings are clerked by a trained and experienced clerk and the minutes are available to everyone through the school office.

A large proportion of the work of the Governing Body is to monitor every aspect of school life. Individual governors have an area of responsibility for example, Health and Safety, finance, assessment or a particular area of the school curriculum. Even though the majority of children were not actually in school the governors continued to monitor the quality of education and supported the leadership of the school. We looked at the learning packages being given to the children; reviewed Covid risk assessments to ensure the safety of the children and staff and received regular updates regarding the finance of the school. In addition, policies were still reviewed as well as the School Improvement Plan. When restrictions allowed, some governors attended meetings to review the recovery programme put in place to enable children to address gaps in their learning and knowledge.

Training

In order to carry out the role successfully the Governing Body receive training. Some of the training is delivered to the Governing Body as a whole. This year, of course, all training was delivered virtually. The Governing Body received training on what to expect during an Ofsted inspection and on the very important issue of Safeguarding. In addition, individual governors attend training relating to their area of responsibility. This ensures we are knowledgeable about the latest initiatives.

The last 2 years have been unprecedented for all of us. In spite of all the difficulties I am proud to be associated with a team of people, children, staff, parents and governors, who met each new challenge with a smile and a determination to do the right thing for the children, whatever it took. Thank you.

June Gould

Chair of Governing Body

Galleywood Infant School