

**ANNUAL REPORT FROM BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR PARENTS AND TRUSTEES**  
**SUMMER 2021**

The last fifteen months have challenged all of us in unexpected ways, and certainly have tested governors' capacity to maintain normal workings to the full.

At the start of the pandemic, governors worked closely but remotely (!) with senior staff to support the school, realising very quickly that the impacts of the situation would be wide ranging. School closures brought new ways of working for staff in teaching on line and in providing resources for home schooling. Governors worked alongside senior staff to examine the potential for the development of a Recovery Curriculum for pupils once they returned. Sadly, all our usual Summer events could not go ahead in the ways planned, but staff showed great creativity in bringing events to life on line and subsequently in small "bubbles" when school reopened. Governors supported staff well being throughout, setting aside funds to do so, and maintained close contact with seniors.

As time has gone on, and governor on site visits have been mostly impossible, monitoring by governors has continued. All governor board and committee meetings have taken place on line, and monitoring "visits" completed by Zoom. Jan Pugh, our Chair of Teaching and Learning Committee completed a very thorough review of all remote teaching and learning, the quality of our provision was particularly praised by our school adviser.

Jodie Poole and Ian Preston, our co vice chairs of governors, have been instrumental in marketing the school more widely, helping to grow its roll significantly and bring in additional resources. Jodie is the queen of social media for our board, bringing a hugely valuable young parent perspective to us governors of a certain age!

Governors have supported our bid for funding for our proposed autism resource centre (ARC) and our chair worked closely with Ms James and Ms Edwards on the concept brief and feasibility. Governors welcomed Professor Barry Carpenter CBE OBE as an associate governor to bring his expertise in autism to assist us. He has brought a number of opportunities and cost free resources to the project already, all of which will benefit every child at our school.

Keith Buncle has taken over responsibility for Safeguarding, Data Protection, and FOI, bringing his university based expertise to bear. Keith is always rigorous in his examination of Safeguarding protocols which protect our children and staff.

Ian Preston has taken charge of governor training. Ian is a former trustee of the NGA and assessor for the Effective School Governance Award scheme, and ensures all governors have the skills they need. Ian joined Polly and Steve in conducting our first on line headteacher appraisal this year.

Jackie Griffiths has led the Resources Committee through a turbulent year, overseeing a rapid positive turnaround in finances which were impacted of late. Governors managed to negotiate a significant rebate of funding for pandemic costs.

Matt Kirk has continued to face the challenges of the pandemic, ensuring that Health and Safety within the school is an absolute priority, working alongside our new site manager Jim, and ensuring all risk assessments provide excellent protection for all. Matt also manages our asset register, sorts out wonderful deals for IT services, and provides a terrific parent perspective in our meetings.

We are delighted to have welcomed two new governors to our board. Hannah Wyld is our new financial guru, and has already taken responsibility for monitoring PPG and maintaining our Risk Register. Hannah asks all the right questions in our Resources Committee meetings, keeping us focused on the numbers!

Gill Griffiths is grandmother to two children at our school, and as an ex headteacher of an outstanding primary school has brought her expertise to bear on many facets of governance. Gill works on our resources committee, oversaw our admissions process this year, led our statutory value for money submission, and has brought a great grandparent perspective to our meetings.

Ms Merricks has brought the staff member perspective to our meetings, and is consulted constantly to ensure that we do not overlook anything in our discussions. As a young parent, she brings another valuable voice to our thinking, and her depth of knowledge in literacy and early years informs our decision making. She will be working closely with Gill Griffiths, who has taken up specialist governor oversight for English.

We have sadly said goodbye to Katie Limm and Steve Chalfoner as governors this year and thank them for their service.

We have one Foundation Governor vacancy on our board now, and begin interviews in June. Should any of you be considering whether school governance might be for you, do please get in touch for a chat.

This year should have brought a full consultation and review of our 3 year strategic plan. Governors feel that it is best to wait until next term for this, so we can engage more normally with each other and more fully with all stakeholders. So, we have done a mini review this term, and will set an Autumn date to complete this in full. We very much look forward to hearing your thoughts on the school's future. We have, of course, completed our annual audit of fulfilment of statutory duties, which will be made available with our meeting minutes on the school website.

At the end of this year, we, as governors, remain proud to serve you and to give our utmost to ensuring a sustainable future for our school, and a bright and successful future for all our children.

Polly McMeeking MA(Ed)  
Chair of Governors  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021