



Billingshurst Primary School

Governor Newsletter

Learning, growing and achieving excellence together

July 2023

Hello and welcome to our last newsletter of the academic year.

We have had one of the busiest years that we are likely to have as a school and as a result, there are some big changes happening and set to happen as we look ahead to September and beyond. Change can be both unsettling and exciting in equal measure and so we want to reiterate that we are invested in securing the best outcomes for our pupils and that we are looking forward to working with the new interim headteacher, Brian Ball and the continuing Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of Mr Leigh, Mr Timmons, Mrs Hatrick, Miss Daniels, Mrs Towner and Mrs Alfold to ensure we achieve this. As well as all the hard-working teachers and members of staff at the school we recognise that we are lucky to have you, our strong community and network of parents and carers alongside us and we'd like to thank you for your continued support.

We were able to share a final governor meeting with Miss Williamson last week in which we expressed our thanks for all her hard work during her 13 years as Head. The relationship between governor and the headteacher is seen as a 'critical friend' which means that we continually challenged and held her to account when the need arose. It's testament to her character, her love of the school and her commitment to pupils that she never failed in answering our questions or engaging in healthy debates and we'd like to thank her again for all she has done for the school. We wish her the very best for the future.

We would also like to acknowledge our Chair of Governors, Nicola Waters. Leading confidently and proactively, Nicola has provided the governing board with the guidance it has needed to embark on the challenges that have arisen and so we would like to thank her for her expertise and diligence. We know some of you had the chance to meet her this year – at more formal meetings or some of our annual fundraising events - and would agree that we are lucky to have her as our Chair.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday, whether that is full of exhilarating adventures or rest and relaxation (or both!) and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Billingshurst Primary School Governors



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Communication Working Party

The results of the Parent Survey that was carried out post-Ofsted highlighted a need for the school to consider the success of its interactions – both day-to-day communications as well as individual concerns – between parents/carers, pupils, and the community. One of the suggestions in the survey was for volunteers who wanted to support the school with its communication and engagement or who had expertise they were willing to share, to form a working party with the governors. We are pleased to report that we recently held our first meeting with those wanting to be involved and will continue to hold them monthly to allow views/ideas and suggestions to be feedback via the governors to the SLT to strengthen interactions for both the school and parents.

Goodbye and good luck!

We were privileged to join Year 6 at Blackland Farm earlier in the term and enjoyed watching them perform in the leavers production of *The Tempest* too, well done to everyone! While the year 6 team have been instrumental in their guidance towards these young pupils in their final year at school, all teachers and members of staff have been invested in their wellbeing and academic lives from the first day they joined us at BPS and so we would all like to wish them the very best of luck for the future. Year 6, you should be very proud of yourselves, we certainly are!