

Governors' Newsletter

YOULGRAVE ALL SAINTS' CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Seasons greetings from the School Governing Board!

As we rapidly head towards Christmas '22 and before the school and children take a well earned break, I wanted provide a short update from the School Governing Board.

In the last months, with Mrs Stelling on leave of absence, I wanted to express our gratitude to Mrs Barker for stepping in as our interim Executive Headteacher. Mrs Barker, with the support of the Local Education Authority, has agreed to continue to be our interim Headteacher with review points in the rest of the year to plan ahead as necessary.

There have been a number of positive changes in the school under her leadership, especially in the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 teaching area to provide excellent, multi-spaced learning environments to help cement learning in Key Stage1. Positive play areas have also been established in class 1 for breakout learning. Other enhancements include a student-centred learning space, established outside the classroom areas, for dedicated tuition to support students in focused topics appropriate to their specific learning needs, and a welcoming area for visitors as they call on the school.

Mrs Houghton and Ms McVeigh have visited Mrs Barker's other school where she is headteacher to see how Key stage 1 is delivered there and we are anticipating more cross school activities to share experiences and ways of working next year. Mrs O'Neill, as Class 1 mentor, provides Class 1 oversight and will be supported by a new TA who we will be able to introduce to you all in January.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Ms Mitchel-Smith very much for all her hard work and contribution to the school as she departs to develop her career in pastures new.

Mr Scully has provided excellent continuity as senior teacher, along with Mrs Dale as TA in support, and leads us very capably in Key Stage 2.

We are very grateful to Ms Hicks for her work as interim teacher for class 3 and offer a warm welcome to our new member of staff Ms Hemmingway joining us in school for the last few days of term ahead of joining us on a permanent basis in January. Ms Hemmingway will be supported by the ever smiling Mr Jones, our excellent Class 3 TA and student centred learning teacher! Ms Tonks continues to deliver Sports and Physical Education in an appropriately challenging and creative manner and Mrs Buston assists our Ukrainian students with language and translations.

It is also important to recognise the strong and diligent support Mrs Barker has received from the school office with Mrs Stafford-Wood and Mrs Askew working



We CARE

Welcoming Community
Achievement Respect
Encouragement

Changes in Classroom layout in Class 1!

New layout to support
Key Stage 1 learning

Vacancy

Have you got the time
and the skills we are
looking for? Join us and
make a difference!

Governors Board Meeting

Key updates from the
recent Governor Meeting

tirelessly through all the school business administration and background operational duties, essential to the smooth running of the school.

At this time of year, it is also important to recognise and thank the other members of the school community; Mrs Tory and Ms Hulme do a sterling job in the kitchen and our mid-day supervisors Mrs Teeboon, Mrs Tabbenor give the teaching staff a breather and preparation break ahead of the afternoon classes. The ever present Mrs Travers also assists at lunchtime and is always at hand with breakfast clubs and after school activities to support extended school opening times to help parents, carers or guardians with work or other commitments. Mr Shimwell completes the list with his caretaking duties keeping the school 'ship shape'.

Many thanks to all for your hard work and commitment to the school this term.

The school has been very busy with two productions of the 'family fireside' re-telling of the nativity story in the Church. It was great to see many of the Pre-School Children also take part in the play with support from all the pre-school staff. This excellent production saw a huge amount of hard work from the children and the staff to get it ready to perform and was a total joy to watch. Friday was the carol service with the traditional renditions of Christmas hymns and songs that are so enjoyed at this time of year and to wrap it up, Monday was the Christingle Service. These activities take preparation and not an insignificant level of time and commitment from the staff and I am sure we have all enjoyed the fruit of their labours.

A huge thanks to everyone involved.

In other news:

The Governing Body had a full board meeting last week where we approved a number of policy updates and reviewed the progress of the school this academic year to date under Mrs Barker's leadership. Governors have also been busy this term undertaking training, some of which is mandatory and some to continue building capability. This included safeguarding, GDPR, introduction to governance, monitoring and evaluation, and finance. 2023 will be an exciting year for the Governing Body as we develop our strategy and we look forward to sharing more detail on that in due course

The governing body is in the process of establishing the Teaching and Learning Committee to help support the school curriculum. This committee has not been in operation in recent times and will provide the school with additional support and oversight.

The Finance and Resources committee has been working closely with the school office to produce and approve the school budget for the rest of this year in detail and projections for the next two years. The key elements of the budget approval at this point in the year include the implementation of the Teachers Pay Policy and investment in teacher training.

Finally, I would just like to wish you all a very 'Merry Christmas' and a happy a prosperous New Year.

Kind Regards
Mark Shearing
Acting Chair of Governors