

# Governors' Newsletter

YOULGRAVE ALL SAINTS' C OF E (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Greetings from the School Governing Board!

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

As the countdown to half-term begins and the promise of Spring is (hopefully) in the air, greetings from the School Governors.

It was a delight last Tuesday to hear the school brass orchestra – everyone has clearly been working hard to tame their unwieldy instruments – patience and hard work from all the staff has paid dividends – well done to all who took part.

School has been open for the introduction of the new reading scheme 'Accelerated Reader'. Many thanks to those that came along to learn more – hopefully this new programme will help consolidate and grow our pupils' reading capabilities at all levels. The new library is also up and running and children can select a book that interests them to bring home, in addition to their reading scheme book. It was a mammoth job categorising and labelling up the books for Accelerated reader – my thanks to all the staff and volunteers involved. I'm also grateful to everyone in the community who has donated books to the school – please do continue to bring in any children's books, fact or fiction, that you no longer need.

## Governors' Update

The Governing Board met on 31 January with a focus on the School Improvement Plan. Every school, nationwide, must have a school improvement plan to define how the school intends to progress at a detailed level. Our core priorities this year are around expanding the reading culture, to continue to refine and embed 'Mastery in Mathematics' and to enhance the effectiveness of the curriculum. I am very pleased to be able to report we are making solid progress in each of these areas.

At the board meeting we also:

- Reviewed the phonics action plan and the steps planned to build on our status of meeting the national standards.
- Reviewed our budget forecast which continues to be positive but will need careful management to ensure it remains healthy given increased cost pressures in many areas.
- Reviewed and agreed 7 new and updated policies for adoption by the school including Accessibility, Equality, Inclusion and Diversity and Medical Conditions.



**We CARE**

Welcoming all  
Community  
Achievement  
Respect  
Encouragement

**School Brass  
Orchestra**

## Governor Vacancy

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

## Attendance

Moments Matter,  
Attendance Counts!

The Governing Board has been working on a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan which sets out how the governing body will fulfil its core strategic functions. [This document is now available on the school website](#). This term, our English, Pupil Premium, Safeguarding, Maths and Curriculum Link governors have connected with the staff team to understand their respective action plans for the year, and this will be followed by a school visit to see how these plans are being implemented in practice. It's great to see the school improvement plan in action through each of the core subject areas.

I would like to give a big thank you to Dave Room, one of our foundation governors (and member of our parent community). Dave has been on our governing board for the past 4 years and has now stepped down from this role following the completion of his full term. Dave has also served as Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee for the past year. I am grateful to Lucy Barnwell, one of our new foundation governors who will take on the Committee Chair role. There is always a need for new governors to join the team and support our local school as we strive to achieve our objectives. Our current vacancies are for Parent and Foundation Governors appointed via the Church, but anyone interested in supporting would be very welcome for a chat to learn more. Please email: [m.shearing@youlgrave-allsaints.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:m.shearing@youlgrave-allsaints.derbyshire.sch.uk) or Rachel Shooter, deputy chair of governors: [rshooter@youlgrave-allsaints.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:rshooter@youlgrave-allsaints.derbyshire.sch.uk)

In relation to our leadership team, Mrs Stelling remains absent from school and I am sorry that we do not have any updates for you. We will share any news as soon as we are able to.

## School Attendance

Many thanks once again for all the efforts you are all making to improve our school attendance. Over the last half term our attendance statistics have remained consistent at just a smidge under 96% - our goal is 97% in line with national targets...just a little bit further to go...

School attendance is one of the most important indicators of success for both pupils and the school. Good attendance results in success across a range of outcomes, which are key to a child's overall development. The importance of school attendance has been highlighted by the Department for Education in their recent campaign: 'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts'. [You can read more about supporting your child's attendance here](#). The NHS has also [published guidance to help parents and carers](#) decide whether their child is well enough to attend school, including information on a range of common childhood illnesses and conditions, such as coughs, colds, chickenpox and headlice.

## Curriculum Online

The school curriculum can be accessed on the school's website – [please do have a look at the learning plans for the rest of the academic year](#).

That is all for this newsletter, I hope you enjoy the half term break. Please note that Monday 26 February is an Inset day and school looks forward to welcoming children back on Tuesday 27 February 2024.

Kind Regards  
Mark Shearing

Chair of Governors

