

Governors' Newsletter

YOULGRAVE ALL SAINTS' CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Greetings from the School Governing Body!

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

The summer break is upon us and as we reflect on the last half term, -- it is has yet again been a busy one for school – and especially school connecting with the community which is fantastic! Between the VE celebrations, School Welldressing (with the VE Day theme), the school open day, the Sports Day and of course the wonderful leavers' play; it been great to open the school and have your support in all these events. Thank you!

In additional to all this, school has been busy preparing for a 'SIAMS' inspection. School undergoes two external inspections on a roughly 4 year cycle; one from the Department for Education (Ofsted Inspection) and also the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). A SIAMS inspection focuses on how effectively the schools' vision enables the pupils to flourish. Building on the "Good" Ofsted rating achieved last year, I am really pleased to report that the school was awarded the highest SIAMS score called a "Judgement 1". This is a phenomenal achievement and testament to the huge efforts of the pupils, the teaching staff and governors who all worked extremely hard in preparation. On the day the sun came about, and the school shone brightly! The inspector commented; **"This is a warm, caring and welcoming school at the heart of the village community."** ...and went on... **"There is a rich sense of belonging in this caring Church school. Trusting relationships built across the school community ensure pupils, adults and families work in unity and flourish together."** ...and finally... **'YAS Primary School will inspire and nurture all to flourish through a love of learning, being confident and courageous within our Christian ethos in school and the community, laughing, having fun and encouraging each other.'** What wonderful recognition of all that the school stands for and strives to achieve.

What is also wonderful to recognise is the improving SATs results. This solid trend is starting to evidence the benefits pupils are gaining from investments in school facilities, teaching and learning programmes and the staff team. I am confident that as we further embed these learning schemes and continue our individually tailored development programmes, we will really see significant growth in our pupils in a way that is appropriate for each of them in their own right. Yet another cause for celebration is the achievement of the Gold Sports award for the second year running...brilliant – let's make it a 'hat trick' next year!



We CARE

Welcoming everyone
Community
Achievement **Respect**
 Encouragement

SIAMS Inspection gives top marks!

Gold Sports award for the second year running

Governor Vacancy

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

Attendance

Goal achieved – better than national average!

Governors Update

The Governing Body met on the 9th July and started with the formal welcome of our two newest Governors, Helen Knight and Hugh Shilson-Thomas, now both formally appointed by the Diocese. 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 governors, but anyone interested in supporting would be very welcome for a chat to learn more.

Other key topics discussed at the governing body meeting were:

- The school budget remains positive and with a cohort for September 2025 in line with planning then looks to be able to remain so for the foreseeable future.
- Further work to determine the investment needed to bring the old school house into the school 'campus' continues with detailed structural and asbestos inspections as well as limiting the potential impact from the garden clearance.
- With our shared headteacher model with Biggin Primary School we continue to explore how efficiencies and economies can be jointly achieved between the two schools.

Thank-you...

It is with more than a little sadness that we say farewell to a number of staff as term draws to a close.

A massive thank you to Mr Scully who leaves us for new challenges away from school; he will be very much missed after 6 years of teaching in class and so, so much more in the additional responsibilities he has supported school with.

Also, Mrs Askew, ever a smiling face at the school door, also heads into new challenges – and challenges outside education with a venture into a new business – we wish you both the greatest success with your new endeavours.

Lastly, we extend a huge thank you to Mrs Dale who also is leaving us for new challenges. We want to thank you for all your hard work and support.

They will all be missed by staff, parents and children.

Lisa Bingham, who has been a school governor for 20 years (!!), is leaving the governing body. We thank her for her very significant years of service, leading the governors responsibility on safeguarding amongst many others in her tenure, many thanks for all your hard work and contributions Lisa!

School Attendance

Many thanks once again for all the efforts you are all making to improve our school attendance. I am pleased to announce that we are now almost at our target and still improving – a great achievement, we appreciate your support.

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.

That is all for this newsletter, on behalf of the Governors, I wish you all a very happy (and dry!) Summer Break. School looks forward to welcoming children back on Monday September 8th.

Kind Regards
Rachel Shooter / Mark Shearing

Co-Chairs of Governors