

Dear Parents/Carers,

## GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2021

As we reach the final half term of the academic year and we approach the Summer holidays we, the Governing Body, wanted to take this opportunity to give you an update on what we have been doing behind scenes to support the pupils, staff and community of Temple Grafton Church of England Primary School.

Without doubt, 2020/21 has been another challenging year for the school and its community and Mrs Gray and her team of teachers, teaching assistants, support staff and volunteers have been working incredibly hard throughout the year to ensure a safe, caring and supportive environment for all the children who are the heart of everything we do.

### **Thanks & Gratitude**

Usually, at this time of year we say a specific thank you to Mary and her team of teachers and staff for their hard work during the year. This year, I think they deserve our extra special thanks and gratitude for the hard work, dedication and commitment that they have all contributed during the pandemic. The School has been asked to plan for and respond to situations and decisions that have often been out of its direct control and we are proud of the of all the staff in the way in which they have responded and adapted these changes. During the lockdown, Mary and her team had to provide a mix of on-line remote learning and live teaching, whilst caring for the children of key workers in school. On the school's full re-opening in March, they have supported the children to find a pathway back to being part of the school community and back to learning by providing a recovery curriculum and by providing additional support to all those children who needed it. We thank them for their long hours and going above and beyond to support the children and school community.

We would also like to thank you as parents and carers for the support that you have given to the children and school. We know that it has been a challenging, and often overwhelming time, in helping your children with home learning whilst often working full-time and supporting other family commitments. Your support has been invaluable to the children and the school.

Our thanks also go to the children for their adaptability, hard work, positivity, collaboration and good humour.

## School Changes and Improvements

Over the last year, the Governing body have approved funding and supported various improvements to the school environment. The school oil tank had become old and prone to breakdown – so this has been replaced to ensure all the children and staff are warm during the colder months. An application has been made to the Condition Improvement Fund to replace the school roof and capital funding to redecorate other tired areas of the school. Hopefully, the funding will be approved this month, so that work can commence over the summer holidays. Funding has also been approved to re-develop the outdoor area to enable the children to become more physically active throughout the whole of their school day. This will involve replacing the trim trail around the perimeter fence and the new plan will include an outdoor classroom, stage area, planting area, balancing beams, logs etc. This work should commence during the summer.

## Governor Visits & Monitoring

Due to Covid restrictions, governors have been specifically asked not to visit the school, in case we bring in anything nasty. However, we have made the most of Teams and continued to hold twice termly Governor Meetings with our main focus on continuity of education and the achievement of the School Improvement Plan, Safeguarding and most of all the wellbeing of the children and all the staff during these difficult times. We have held specific Teams meetings on SEND (Special Educational Needs); Pupil Progress; Safeguarding; Collective Worship and we have been able to do site Health & Safety inspections. Hopefully, if all goes well with the lifting of restrictions we should be able to start visiting the school and it will be good to meet with the children and staff face to face again.

## The Governing Body

The Governing Body is entirely made up of volunteers, who bring experience and skills to their governing roles. The Governing Body is currently made up of the following people:

- Cathy Barron – Chair of Governors & SEND Governor^
- Chris Smith – Vice-Chair of Governors, Foundation Governor\*, Health & Safety
- Helen Wood – Safeguarding Governor
- Sally Henderson – Foundation Governor\*, Early Years (EYFS) Governor
- Dave Dathan – Co-opted Governor – Education
- Faye Brown – Parent Governor – Safeguarding Governor
- Steve Davies – Parent Governor – Finance Governor
- Claire Drake – Co-opted Governor, SEND Governor^
- Mary Gray – Head of School, Staff Governor
- Tara Yorke – Assistant Head of School, Staff Governor.

\*Foundation Governors are representatives of the Church of England. ^ SEND – Special Education Needs.

The governing body together with Mrs Gray (our head of school) is responsible for the overall governance of the school. In brief our role is as follows:

- Setting the strategic direction of the school ensuring its vision, Christian values and ethos are met.
- Developing, monitoring and challenging the School Learning Improvement Plan to ensure standards are met and holding the head teacher to account for the performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring its money is well spent and our finances are well managed.

### **Parent/Carer Questionnaire**

We are proud of the provision that school offers its pupils but this does not mean we are complacent. We are always looking for ways to develop and improve. To this end, our Governors would welcome your feedback through our annual parent/carers survey. This will be issued shortly and we would welcome as many responses as possible.

### **Additional Thanks**

We would like to say a fond farewell and thank you to both Leanne Harvey, Jill Staples-Grantham and Corinne McGahan. Leanne joined us three years ago as Reception Teacher and we were all impressed with her passion and commitment to early years teaching. We wish her all the very best for her future endeavours. Corinne has been working as a Teaching Assistant at TG for over 10 years, most recently in Class 2 and she will be missed by the teachers, children and staff.

Jill has worked for the school for many years, not only as a cover supervisor, but has also provided invaluable support and energy to the school's music, drama and French provision. Her commitment and contagious enthusiasm have inspired so many children in drama, Christmas productions and the school choir. However, we will not be losing her completely and she will continue to provide her insurmountable talents to the choir, school Christmas productions on a voluntary basis and will be continuing with Harlequin Drama.

We would also like to thank the army of volunteers that help make the school what it is. To all of you: who tirelessly raise funds for the PTA; help to run Forest School; help with extra-curricular activities (when able), and; help to manage the school by attending Governor meetings – THANK YOU!

Finally, we would like to wish the very best of luck to our Year 6, who will be leaving us at the end term, and that they have a smooth transition to their new schools. The way in which they have coped over the last eighteen months has been nothing short of admirable and heroic.

We hope that you all have a good Summer and enjoy the good weather whilst it lasts.

Your Governing Body.



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