

The purpose of this newsletter is to give an overview of the work of the Governing Body over the last year and what it currently sees as the key challenges for the year ahead

Dear Parents and Carers ,



Firstly, on behalf of the Governing-Body at Yorkley School, I would like to take a moment to congratulate all of our year 6 students on their SATs results for this year, and to wish them every success as they begin their secondary education. We look forward to hearing of their future successes. The results are the highest combined results for 4 years and above the National targets. They underline the level of effort put in by the children, the teaching staff, the support staff, and also you as parents and carers. Congratulations also to our Year 2 children on their SATS results, Year 1s with their phonics and the Reception children gaining their 'Good Level of Development'

Responsibilities - Governing Bodies are not particularly visible in the daily life of schools, but are responsible for the overall management of schools. At Yorkley, the Governing Body is made up of 11 individuals, including some members of staff. Many schools struggle to find governors but here at Yorkley, with the recent additions of Dónal Carmody and Andy Breeze, we have a full complement of governors with a wide range of skills and experience. We must also thank Caron deBurgh for her diligence and service as she moves on. We are in the process of reorganising our committee structure to ensure that we can support the school in a more efficient and focussed manner; through regular and effective challenge on the curriculum, and also effective use of the budget. More information on this will be available shortly on the school website.

Chris Wood – Chair of Governors

Feedback - The school prides itself on providing a rich and varied curriculum delivering not only the core academic subjects like Maths, Science and English but also providing opportunities to raise aspirations, explore values and wider wellbeing. Visitors to the school always give positive feedback on what they see during their visits.

This year, over half of you contributed to the parent questionnaire, thank you. Feedback demonstrated how proud parents are of the school.

Welfare of children & staff - We always get positive feedback on the behaviour of our children both within the school and during visits. We all have a role in instilling the importance of diversity and respect for one another. I would take this opportunity to remind parents and careers, that although occasions are thankfully very rare, abusive behaviour towards any school staff will not be tolerated at all.

Wider Curriculum –



This year the school has provided a wide range of activities that both supplement the classroom teaching of the national curriculum, but also gave the children opportunities to try new things. These included, visits to local museums, as well as a Mammoth tusk being shared in school. French days, Forest walks, launching a weather balloon (and a monkey into space), mini marines to name but a few. There was the opportunity to try different musical instruments and even attend a yoga class before school started in the morning. The introduction of the Playpod has been a big success and there have been a number of after-school clubs offering a range of activities.

Recognition - Over the year we have received awards for Science, Reading, achieved the Gold Award for sports, met the EYFS Bristol Standard for the third year and been recognised again as a Healthy School. More locally, the children won two Art competitions, Music and produced a local anthology based on our Community.

We can't list all the Governing Body's work over the last year but below are some of the key areas to give you a flavour.

Staff Management

The school employs 31 staff on both full & part time basis. Throughout the year the Governing Body ensures the school makes good use of its staff, makes sure they are supported and that they understand what is expected of them and the priorities of the school.

Governor Visits

Through the year individual governors have made monitoring visits with subject leaders and visited lessons to see how the school goes about delivering the curriculum. Monitoring visits in the last year have included Maths, Computing, Special Educational Needs, Pupil Premium, Science, English and Art.

Curriculum and Standards

A group of governors (the Curriculum and Standards Committee) meet to review the progress of pupils across the school. They examine the evidence behind assessments and challenge the reasoning and judgements made. They look to support improvements in educational standards across the school. They have reviewed progress of pupils throughout the school, considering amongst other things, the progress of groups of children as they moved through the school, differences in progress between boys and girls and provisions for groups such as those with particular educational needs.

Special Educational Needs and Safeguarding

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken by staff and governors to monitor the progress of pupils with specific requirements and ensure robust management processes are in place where concerns are raised about the welfare of a child.

A Very Special Mention

Not only do we say goodbye to our Year 6s but we also say goodbye to some long-term supporters of our school. Linda Jeynes our school Caretaker, has ensured over the last 25+ years that the school has been kept safe, clean and tidy, going above and beyond to open the school in the snow or when we are late back from trips. Without a team of people like Linda, many of whom are not seen, we wouldn't have the best environment on a daily basis to learn and grow. Rachel Creber will also be leaving us after 24 years of service supporting quite literally, generations of children to grow and move on in their lives. As well as supporting our SEND children in her role as SENCo she has been a creative source for all of us and will be sorely missed. We thank them most sincerely and wish them every happiness in their next chapter.

We are also sadly saying goodbye and thank you to our Class 5 teacher Leanne Williams for all her hard work in helping our Year 6 children achieve their excellent SATS results. We wish her well in her new school.

So in September we will welcome new staff and children as well as returning familiar faces. We shall also begin working with Drybrook School short term which will present us with new opportunities and no doubt a few challenges too.

The Governing body has three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction for the school;
- Holding leaders (Head Teacher) to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

Who are we?

Head Teacher: Kate Burke; Parent Governors: Antony Dufort, Local Authority Governor: Chris Nancollas; Staff Governor: Tracy Wood; Co-opted Governors: Alan Castle, Amanda Perry, Dónal Carmody, Andy Breeze, Chris Wood (Chair) Alastair Chapman (Vice-Chair) and Frances Day (Clerk).

<http://yorkleyschool.co.uk/about-the-school/school-governors/>