

## **Governors Annual Report to the Community**

As part of our commitment to openness and transparency, we have prepared a 2022 report about governance at Blewbury Primary school. We hope that as parents/carers and members of the community you will find this informative and interesting.

Blewbury Primary school has had many challenges in the past few years; the school joining ODS (Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust); changes to the leadership and staffing and of course Covid. During this time the school's core values of Community; Appreciation; Perseverance and Forgiveness have been important in moving the school forward. These values, along with a terrific team effort between staff, children, parents, governors and the wider community mean that the school has emerged with greater resilience, strength and with well-founded aspirations for the future. Blewbury school is on an upward trajectory and is an exciting place to be.

The 2021 Autumn term commenced with eager anticipation tempered with caution. Jo Reeder was appointed as Head of School to work alongside Lisa Austin our executive Headteacher. In January Jo's hard work was rewarded as she was made substantive Headteacher. Her enthusiasm, creativity, love of teaching and learning, sheer hard work and above all her passion for the welfare and education of all the children is rapidly moving the school forward.

As we review the year, we are pleased that so many of the normal events have taken place. Sports Day took place in September followed by Harvest and then the Christmas events. School visits have taken place and after school activities are running again. It was lovely that the Jubilee was able to be celebrated by the whole community in the school. The Year 6 children made us proud with their end of year play.

### How have Governors held the school to account?

There are two key documents prepared by the school which guide the Governors and the leadership team in their work. These are the School Evaluation Form (SEF) and the school development plan (SDP). A number of techniques are employed to ensure accountability, and these include challenging the Headteacher at governing body meetings and conducting monitoring visits when Governors are able to speak to teachers and children as well as see their work. This enables Governors to gather evidence that objectives are being met. Focus this year has again been on

- Safeguarding
- Behaviour
- Leadership
- Curriculum
- Improved teaching and learning through coaching and professional development.
- Improved Early Years provision

We are of course a Church of England school, and the Christian ethos is at the heart of all we do. Our vision statement for the last few years has been “Shine your light and share it with the world”. It is now being reviewed to make it more in keeping with the new curriculum developed by the school. Further information will be shared with you in the Autumn term.

### Looking to the future

Each year we have goodbyes to say at the end of term. Zoe Banfield has only been with us since January, but she is moving away from Oxfordshire and will be taking up a new position.

Emma Wilkinson has worked as a TA supporting the children. She too is leaving us to take up a full-time position.

Su Calvert remains on maternity leave having delivered a son earlier in the year.

We also say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils. It has been a different couple of years for them, but they have proved themselves to be resilient and resourceful and we wish them every success in their new schools.

During the year we also said goodbye to Tracey Gregory who left the school after many years of teaching the children of Blewbury school and Caroline Evans who has worked so hard as Office Manager. Caroline has taken early retirement and we wish her well.

Riz Bhatti will be joining the teaching team in September. Riz, who has been working as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant is a qualified teacher and will be teaching Year 5 with Alex Jacob.

Heather Watts has joined us as Office Manager, and we hope she will enjoy being part of our team.

Since joining ODST we have had a small Governing board with only 6 members, but ODST recognise the progress that has been made and have agreed that it is now time to evolve into a full governing body. We have recruited three new governors Matt Stone who is a community governor, Sarah Mols who is a parent governor and Vita Parvin who is staff governor. There remain two vacancies one for a parent governor and one for a foundation governor. We would welcome expressions of interest from anyone who has the relevant skills and is interested in fulfilling one of those roles.

Finally, may we thank you all for the support you give the school and the way you have worked with us all to ensure that Blewbury school continues to make good progress.