

Headteacher: Jo Reeder

Governors End of Autumn Term Report to the Community December 2023

Our vision

Based on the parable of the Sower Matthew 13 our guiding motto is Nurture, Grow, Flourish. Our School is a place for all to belong. Through love we nurture all to grow in their own unique way. We create an environment for all to flourish; to become respectful, compassionate, courageous advocates, who make a difference to our community and the world beyond.

How do Governors hold the school to account?

The three core functions of the governing body are to

- Develop the vision of the school
- Hold leaders to account for the educational performance and performance management of the headteacher
- Ensure that funding is spent appropriately and wisely

The Governing Board has two committees: Resources and Finance and Curriculum. The Full Governing Board meets five times a year with the committees meeting in between and reporting to the full Board.

There are two documents prepared by the School and the Governing Board which guide the Governors and the School in our work together. These are the School Development Plan and the School Evaluation Form. A number of techniques are employed to ensure accountability, and these include challenging the headteacher at Board meetings and conducting monitoring visits when governors are able to observe and speak to teachers and children as well as see the outcomes of their work. This enables governors to gather a range of evidence showing how objectives are being met. This year the school has a particular focus on

- Safeguarding - this is a priority in all schools and will always continue to be so. All Governor visits provide evidence on safeguarding along with regular specific visits
- Attendance and Behaviour - All Governor visits provide evidence on Attendance and Behaviour along with regular specific visits
- Subject leadership
- English – especially reading and writing
- Curriculum areas, particularly Mathematics; Computing; Design and Technology; Science; Religious Education and Modern Foreign Languages
- Spiritual growth and embedding our vision and values in the wider community

We welcomed Katie Dickens as a member of the board at the beginning of term. You can see her full resume on the Governor section of the school website but she brings extensive primary school education experience and is now working for the Oxfordshire Diocesan Board of Education.

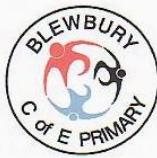
Sarah Mols (one of the elected parent Governors) resigned due to work pressure and so an election was held, and Sarah Smith was elected unopposed. We would like to thank Sarah Mols for the work she did as a Governor of the school. It was much appreciated.

We welcome Sarah and Katie to the Board. We still have a vacancy and are looking particularly for someone with financial skills. If you have those skills and are interested in becoming a Governor please speak to Ann Parham, Miss Reeder or one of the Board.

The Autumn term.

The Autumn term has been another busy one for our School and as part of our commitment to openness and transparency we wish to share with you some of the main highlights.

At the beginning of September, we welcomed our new Reception intake and of course all the existing children moved up a year group. The new children quickly settled into their class and new routines and Governors are pleased with the progress that they are making. Following a visit when prospective parents were invited to visit the school a Governor commented "The behaviour of the children in EYFS was exemplary particularly as there were



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adults coming and going. Routines and systems set up by staff really supported the children to feel safe and grounded in their classroom despite the comings and goings throughout the morning. Staff supported children with additional needs effectively. The continuous provision in place for the children was challenging, well thought through and kept the children learning independently wherever possible. Children's perseverance in tasks and their responses to expectations for example tidy up time and snack time, was particularly impressive".

Mr Sam Coleman joined us in September as Assistant Headteacher, class teacher and SENDCO. The school is already benefitting from his dedication and hard work to the roles. Parents of children with special educational needs have already commented on the positive impact he is having for their children.

Mrs Snowball has given continuity to the teaching in Goldsworthy class and she will continue in this role next term. We welcome Miss Clarkson to teach in Banksy class on a Friday.

The curriculum continues to be interesting and exciting. Details can be found on the school website. Some of the highlights this term included a visit from Pierre Henry-Fontaine, a basketball player who helped the pupils to understand the dedication and resilience needed to become a professional sports person. Through the initiative Sports for Champions, his visit helped the school to raise funds for new playground markings. Pupils also took part in whole school and national events such as Sports Day, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day service, Children in Need, Anti-bullying week and Black History Month.

Christmas activities ended the term with a visit from Santa Claus on his helicopter as he flew over the village; a delicious Christmas lunch; a very successful nativity play; the choir joining the village carol concert and the term will end with the Key stage 2 carol concert in the church.

We are hugely grateful to our headteacher and all her staff for all they continue to do to ensure that the children receive an exciting curriculum and continue to make good progress. We know it is a team effort by everyone. We wish them all a very happy Christmas and hope they have a peaceful New year and return feeling rested.

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

Happy Christmas,
The Governors