



# Gossops Green Governor Newsletter

## Autumn Edition 2023



### **Hello and welcome to our first Governor Newsletter**

Our aim is to send you a newsletter every term in which will keep you in touch with what we do as a Governing Body and also report back on some of the important achievements and events at the school.

So, as we approach the end of what has been a very successful autumn term here at Gossops Green Primary School, we would like to thank our wonderful children for their hard work throughout this term. It has been a privilege to see the children settling in at the start of a new school year and making progress throughout the term. Every child has contributed to the school's continued success, and they should all feel very proud of their achievements.

### **Welcome from the Chair of Governors –**










*On behalf of the Governing Body of Gossops Green I would like to welcome you to the first of our regular newsletters. I would like to thank you, our supportive parents and carers. By working together, we can ensure that our children enjoy their time at school, make good progress and leave us ready to approach the next exciting stage of their lives. We have received so many positive comments about the children's behaviour and attitude from a range of visitors to the school and you should all feel very proud of them!*

*On behalf of all of us on the Local Governing Body I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy holiday and look forward to a great 2024!*

*Best wishes and Season's Greetings,*

*Annie Macfarlane, Chair of Governors*

### **Meet the Governors**

 Sarah Dunne	 Annie Macfarlane	 Toby Bartholomew	 Gordon Humphrey	 Paul Marshman
 Noreen Aslam	 Richard Banks	 Katie Roberts	 Sarah Johncock	 Paul Powers

You can find out more about us via the Governor profiles available on our website–

[Governors | Gossops Green Primary School](#)

## **What are School Governors?**

School governors are a group of volunteers who help run the school. At Gossops Green, we currently have 2 parent governors, 1 staff governor, 5 trust governors and a local Authority governor, who work alongside the Principal. Each of the governors has their own skills and expertise, which they bring to the role, and help us achieve our responsibilities and goals.

The Governing Body meets six times a year, once every half term, with our next meeting at the beginning of February. You can see the Minutes of our meetings either on the school's website, or you can request them from the school office. We also carry out visits once a half term. You may also see us occasionally welcoming you into school, at the beginning or end of the school day and for events, including Parents Evenings. If you do, please feel free to come and talk to us, we are passionate about our role, and like to talk to everyone in the school community.

## **What have we been doing this term?**

### **School Monitoring Visit –**

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October** - We carried out visits to the classrooms to see lessons in progress, spoke to staff about Wellbeing, and attended an assembly. We were very impressed with all we saw, especially the children's behaviour and attitude to learning.

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December** – We met with Mrs Dunne to learn about how the school carry out performance management and to look at what the focus is this year. All teachers will be carrying out educational research to enhance learning for the children.

We met with the new Mental Health Ambassadors in Year 5 and watched a presentation by these children related to understanding mental health and wellbeing.

We watched the Christmas show performed by Year 1.

- We discussed and approved the School Development Plan which is the plan which outlines the matters the school particularly wants to work on this year
- Reviewed and discussed Data/Outcomes
- Discussed and agreed our roles, responsibilities, and objectives for the coming academic year.
- Re-elected Annie Macfarlane as Chair of Governors



### **Year 6 Residential – September 2023 - A personal reflection.**

This September saw me make my fourth consecutive trip with Year 6 children to PGL Marchants Hill, for their residential trip away from home and school. Many may well ask why I chose to spend a week each year with 70+ children away from the comforts of home, joining in with a wide range of outdoor activities, in all weathers.

Well, it's not that I'm a glutton for punishment. My reasoning and experiences are far more positive than that.

As a Governor I feel it's important to actively support this annual event. First and foremost, for the benefits and memories that it gives the children, but also to assist the staff who give up their own time and put in a huge amount of effort to organise and run the trip. Without them, and the accompanying 'responsible adults', the trip simply wouldn't get off the ground.

It's a brilliant opportunity to see both children and staff outside the school and classroom environment. This helps me foster a broader understanding of the needs and challenges everyone encounters, as well as a perspective on how the school's ethos and classroom teaching translates into individual practical, and team, social skills. The trips have helped me to know children and staff that much better, and to see everyone having fun (mostly!), sharing the challenges of outdoor activities that many have not experienced before.

A central theme of education is to 'develop the whole child', which the Residential Trips contribute to in bucket loads. Whether it's reaching the end of an obstacle course, using deductive and spatial skills to orienteer around a woodland, or climb to the top of a mountain, aka climbing wall, a 'can do' mindset is encouraged, which can then be transferred back to the classroom and, indeed, life. The week's activities focus on resilience, overcoming challenges, and developing independence alongside teamwork. All this whilst having fun. I've witnessed children supporting each other, encouraging their peers to face their fears and push themselves outside their comfort zone. I've also seen some that may struggle in the classroom environment achieve above and beyond in the outside learning environment that these trips provide.

Taking part, as a School Governor, is a great opportunity to see and be seen. I've had numerous conversations with children who ask, "What is a school Governor?", "What does a Governor do?", and "Are you Mrs. Dunne's boss?"

Yes, as a supervising adult, the week can be hard work and challenging, particularly when my group of ten or so children are loudly insisting that I too take on the abseiling wall, but it's primarily informative, enlightening and enjoyable, not only for the children but also for me.

Gordon Humphrey (Governor)