

December 2021

Dear Parents and carers

In the summer term, I promised to keep you updated on the work of governors. Now, as the autumn term draws to a close, I write to you to keep that promise. The term has been another challenging one for everyone. My weekly visits have shown me just how well school has managed the many issues posed by the ever-present Covid situation.

There have been a number of changes on the governing board since I wrote to you in July. We have welcomed several new governors with expertise that will enable us to fulfil our core functions: to set the ethos and strategic direction of the school; to hold leaders to account; to oversee financial performance. We have also set a vision for the governing board that supports the school's vision, and an action plan that will take us step by step towards achieving the vision. The vision statement and a list of governors and their responsibilities is attached at the end of this letter and will be posted on the website next term.

Almost all governors have had the privilege of visiting the school in some capacity this term. Most have visited the year groups to which they are attached. They have also talked with teachers to learn about the subjects to which they are linked. A special visit was made to learn about how well the school is helping pupils to develop a love of reading and an understanding of how reading can improve learning. All of these visits have been very informative, and governors have learned much from them. Feedback from staff and from the headteacher shows that staff welcome the visits and the opportunity to speak with governors, and that pupils are also beginning to understand what governors do.

As governors, we are immensely grateful to Mrs Clayton for how well she has managed what has continued to be a very volatile situation resulting in constant change and uncertainty. We also extend our thanks to all of the staff for how they have rallied behind her to ensure pupils can do as well as they can day by day. Pupils too deserve much praise for their excellent behaviour and their willingness to knuckle down and get on with their work. Finally, thank you to you, the parents and carers of these children, for your help and cooperation with the changing systems and procedures designed to keep everyone safe.

I would very much like at this point to wish you all a very happy Christmas and, dare I say it, a much better year in 2022 than any of us has had in the previous two years. I will be in touch again next term.

Kind regards

Doris Bell
Chair of governors

Governors' vision statement, ratified at the meeting on 24 November 2021:

By 2026, Gillibrand Primary School will be a truly learning-centred school that strives to nurture the dreams and talents of all its learners and helps them to be the best they can be. To that end:

- *Governors will ensure that all systems are designed to inspire learners and equip them with the confidence and skills required to thrive in an ever-changing world.*
 - *Governors will support the school and monitor its effectiveness as it works towards fulfilling its stated vision, namely, to nurture children's dreams, to enable children to be happy and to give children the confidence to believe they can succeed.*
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Governors and their roles and responsibilities::

- Doris Bell (chair): chair of standards, effectiveness and curriculum committee (SEC); finance committee; English; Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities; music; Year 1
- Ashley Clayton (headteacher): curriculum and finance committees; reporting to governors and answering questions at all meetings
- Diane Curtis (vice chair): chair of finance; new governor mentoring; parents; EYFS; YR
- Melanie Egan: curriculum committee; art; design and technology; Y3
- David Harrison: finance committee; health and safety; Y5
- Ashley Kenyon: staff governor; curriculum committee; link governor for training
- Mark MacDonald: curriculum committee; mathematics; Y6
- Helen Partington: curriculum committee; safeguarding; RE; Y5; Early Careers Teaching; wellbeing governor
- Mark Perks: curriculum committee; support chair of SEC; science; computing; Y2
- Jenny Taylor: finance committee; support chair of finance; parents; geography; Y4
- Simon Thain: finance committee; history; personal, social, health and citizenship education; Y5/6