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## Leading Our School

### A Newsletter from the Leadership Team

Welcome to the very first edition of 'Leading Our School', our termly publication intended for parents, carers and the wider community in order to keep you informed about how school leaders have moved the school forward each term and monitored its performance.

Green Ridge Primary Academy has a leadership team which comprises of both staff and voluntary governors. The Local Governing Body is responsible for making sure the school provides a good quality education. Together with the Headteacher, it sets the school's aims and vision.

The Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day running of the school, but the governors work closely with them in order to hold the school to account for its performance and work strategically. The staff and governors of our school work together to create a happy and safe learning environment in which all children have the chance to achieve their potential.

If you have any feedback for the leadership team, please use the contact details at the back of this newsletter.



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## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

My name is John Shirley and I'm the current chair of governors for Green Ridge.

I became involved with the school in May this year when REAch2 began to look for governors. I was keen to get involved as I think education is very important and wanted to give something back.

I'll be using my background in law, communications and teaching to help Green Ridge grow and develop.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new pupils, parents and guardians who have joined Green Ridge this term, and helped to make our first ever term a success.

*"A very enjoyable visit. The children were a delight and it was great to see them so engaged." Sir Steve Lancashire, CEO, REAch2*

### WHO ARE THE TRANSITION GOVERNING BOARD?

**John Shirley:**  
Chair of Governors,  
Link Governor for SEND  
and Health & Safety

**Rachel Leach:**  
Link Governor for Pupil  
Premium and Safe-  
guarding

**Gayle Harrison:**  
Link Governor for Fi-  
nance

**Tara Erdos:**  
Staff Governor

**Aaron Wanford:**  
Headteacher (ex officio  
member)

My thanks also go to all the staff at Green Ridge for their hard work, not only throughout the term, but also in setting up the school, enabling Green Ridge to open smoothly, and with some fantastic looking classrooms!

It has been good to see the pupils have been settling in well to their new school, despite invasions by UFOs and Mr Wanford being abducted by aliens!

At the end of each term we will be sending out a newsletter to keep parents, guardians and staff updated on what we've doing as the governing body and what our plans are for Green Ridge going forwards.



## UPDATE

It's been a busy first few months for the TGB since our first meeting in May 2017. We have now held 6 meetings in total to help ensure that Green Ridge has had a successful opening and first term.

Part of this process has been ensuring that Green Ridge has all of the required policies in place to meet our statutory requirements and ensure that the school has the right processes to provide a safe, nurturing environment for all of its pupils. These policies have been reviewed the TGB and adopted, and are available on the school's website [here](#).

We have overseen the move into the current building, which has gone smoothly, despite some snagging issues along the way. We continue to review the progress of the development of the permanent building in case any delays occur which may affect the school. At present, the build is going well and is on schedule.

As a governing body, one of our key roles is to monitor the school's financial viability. At Green Ridge, as a new school, one of the biggest challenges is ensuring that we continue to attract new pupils to help our school grow. The school will be advertising shortly and continuing to raise its profile to ensure that next year we have classes as full and lively as this year.

Green Ridge will also be opening a nursery next year as part of our plans to grow the school, and you will likely see and hear some advertisements for this shortly. We will continue to keep parents and guardians updated on the plans for the new nursery as they develop.

In addition to our regular meetings to discuss the school's progress, each of the Governors will be visiting Green Ridge every term to experience day-to-day life at the school, and to monitor our respective link areas. You can read more about Rachel and Gayle's visits over the page.

## UPDATE

During its first year Green Ridge is overseen by the Transition Governing Board (TGB); we are a small governing body appointed by REAch2 to help Green Ridge get up and running. To see who makes up the TGB, please see page 2.

To help ensure that as Green Ridge grows the school continues to develop and improve, we are keen to expand the governing body as the year progresses. We will be looking to recruit parent governors in the Spring Term, and are always interested to hear from members of the local community who would like to become a governor.

## PARENT VIEW

Parent View asks for your opinion on 12 aspects of our schools, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. Ofsted uses the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect, and when. A screen cast demonstrating how to register and complete a survey on Parent View is available on the 'How to use Parent View' page of the Ofsted website [here](#).

By sharing your views you'll be helping us to improve our school.

## GOVERNOR VISIT FROM RACHEL LEACH

One of the main reasons I decided to become a governor for Green Ridge Primary Academy is because it is a stone's throw away from my house. Living and working in the Berryfields Community I was excited to hear when a new school was going to open here, I contacted Mr Wanford to express my interest. This was back in January last year and I cannot believe how far we have come since then.

During November I spent a day with Mr Wanford and his team seeing what exciting things they have put in place for the pupils. As I entered the building I could immediately see that the pupils' welfare and safety is at the heart of the school. As the link governor for safeguarding this was reassuring to see. Mr Wanford and I met to talk over safeguarding within the school and I was impressed at how rigorous the team were at making sure every child is safe and looked after within school. After our meeting I visited both Mrs Mackie (Willow) and Miss Holloway's (Birch) classes where pupils were focusing on their numeracy and writing skills for the afternoon. In Willow the pupils were learning about numbers, focusing on the number 9. Students were

challenged within this activity as they needed to show Mrs Mackie that they understood the number 9 by fetching 9 objects and completing 9 tasks such as jumping jacks. When I entered Miss Holloway's class they were focusing on writing skills. Children were writing out their names and addresses, this challenged pupils to tell Miss Holloway their full name with some saying they lived in Aylesbury or giving the street they lived on. If a pupil became stuck on how to spell their name Miss Holloway would sound out their surname using phonics. She wouldn't just tell them but would make them listen to the sounds she was making so they could then figure out the letters to write down.

Mr Wanford and his team have shown they have the best interest of the pupils at heart. All staff create a positive culture and ethos within the school community, having safeguarding as an important part of everyday school life. I am excited to see what the school does in the new year and I wish them all a restful and

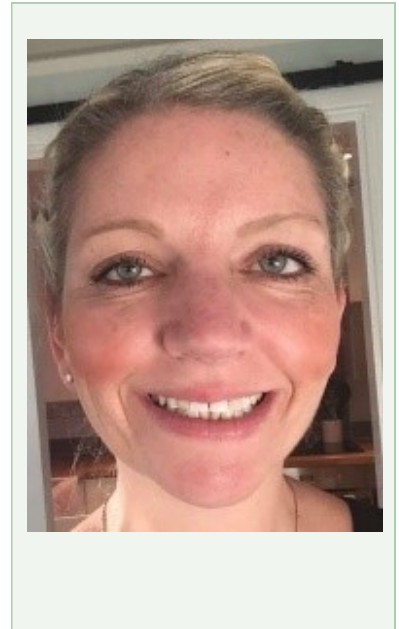




## GOVERNOR VISIT FROM GAYLE HARRISON

My name is Gayle Harrison and I work for REAch2 Academy Trust. I work within a few teams; the North Central Team, the Governance Team, the CPD Team and I am also part of the Free School Strategy Steering Group.

The reason I wanted to be a Governor on the Transition Governing Body was because Green Ridge is a new school within my region, and as I have joined the trust Governance Team I wanted to be involved at the very beginning of the school.



*“The new building is going to be terrific. Clearly some dedicated staff and a great Headteacher!” Sir Steve Lancashire, CEO, REAch2*

On the 9th November I had the privilege to visit Chestnut class for the morning where I joined in with a Maths lesson and learned a new method of addition and subtraction!

The children were an absolute joy; they were polite, well-behaved and were enjoying and engaging with their learning. They were a credit to the school and I very much look forward to my next visit, and what I will learn next time!

As 'Finance link governor' I also met with Mrs Erdos where we had a very productive discussion about

the school budgets and how the school is financially led.

Mr Wanford and his team have done a fantastic job settling the children in to the building and ensuring that the children are enjoying school.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, the children and staff a very happy Christmas and New Year.



All members of the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team welcome your feedback on the items in this issue of Leading Our School and would love to hear your suggestions for future issues.

## The Senior Leadership Team

Aaron Wanford: Headteacher & SENCo  
Tara Erdos: School Business Manager  
Nikki Mackie: Head of Learning (Early Years)

## The Local Governing Body

John Shirley: Chair of Governors (REAch2 Appointed)  
Rachel Leach: REAch2 Appointed  
Gayle Harrison: REAch2 Appointed  
Aaron Wanford: Ex-Officio by virtue of Office as Headteacher  
Tara Erdos: Staff Governor (Non-Teaching)

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