



# Governors' Newsletter

Spring term 2019

## A note from the Chair of Governors Rachel Leach



Hello and welcome to the fourth edition of the Governor newsletter, and my first as Chair of Governors. It has been a busy term since I took over the role from John, not only for Green Ridge governors but also for the school. Our governing body has grown we have welcomed Selina Moore and Andrea Thorowgood to the board. You can read their introductions in this newsletter.

At the end of the last term I had the privilege to see the Christmas plays that the children put on; it was lovely to see all the children enjoying drama and music.

I also attended the workshops the school kindly put on for parents, such as the e-safety workshop and the Fun with Stories. If you are able to attend any of the sessions the school

offer parents, please do – they are informative and help you to support your child's learning.

It was also great to see all the pupils get involved with World Book Day; seeing the pupils dressed as their favourite character from a book was fantastic. I enjoyed asking the pupils about what their favourite book is, and why.

I would also like to say how great the PTA events have been this term. Hartbeeps for Little Ridges was a huge success. Even after a full day of learning, the children still had energy to jump around and Stacey even managed to get the parents to take part in the classic "Oops Upside Your Head"!

The cinema events the PTA put on for YR-3 were also a great success. I am sure your child is looking forward to the next event.

At the end of February, governors visited the school for their link visits. I spent the morning with Mrs Mackie visiting the children in their learning environment. Little Ridges were learning about farm animals, in particular cows. They could tell me what a baby cow is called, how you get milk from a cow and what cows eat. In Reception the pupils were learning about castles. They were all very excited about their trip to Windsor Castle and were thinking of

questions to ask whilst there. Year 1 were exploring space. Year 2 were continuing their study on Roald Dahl and Year 3 were starting to look at scriptwriting. Whilst in Year 3, I learnt about how the school show pupil progress within a topic. At the start of a new topic they complete a 'Cold Task'. The pupils are told what their topic is going to be about then they have to write all they know on this topic. Once all the teaching is complete the pupils then complete a 'Hot Task' where they write all they know. It was really interesting to see this process in their books.

We also say good to Bina Varsani who has been one of our parent governors since last year. Bina has been a valued member of the governing board and we wish her well. We now welcome Ben Moloney to the board. He will be working alongside Laura Nunn as a parent governor.

### Sophy Davies, Vice Chair of Governors



As you will know, all schools are subject to inspection by Ofsted and for our school this is something we need to start thinking about.

Ofsted usually inspects all new schools, including academies, in the first three years after they open. This normally happens in the school's third year. For us this means we need to be ready for inspection by Ofsted from September 2019.

Ofsted are currently consulting on a new framework for inspection. One of the key proposals is that the current quality of teaching, learning and assessment judgment (which previously focussed on outcomes for pupils, i.e. test scores) will be replaced with an overall quality of education judgment.

The four elements the school will be inspected on are:

- quality of education
- behaviour and attitudes
- personal development
- leadership and management.

Each of these elements will be given a graded judgement against a four-point grading scale: grade 1 – outstanding; grade 2 – good; grade 3 – requires improvement; and grade 4 – inadequate.

As governors, we are supporting the school to prepare for the upcoming inspection. To do this, we provide support and challenge to the senior leadership of the school on things such as finances, resourcing, curriculum, support for pupils to develop, and behaviour standards.

Tara Erdos



As a new and growing school, recruitment is somewhat of an ongoing event! Staffing costs account for around 80% of a school's annual budget, so it's important to try to get the balance just right to meet the needs of the pupils, without over-stretching ourselves financially for future years.

Mr Wanford and I work together to create a picture of what the staffing structure might look like for about five years ahead and then we tweak year-on-year as the need dictates.

Last year we tripled the number of staff we had as we moved from our temporary site into the new school build and opened a Nursery too!

Recruitment is one of my favourite parts of my role and creating the 'Green Ridge Team' from scratch is a real treat to be a part of. We have been recruiting since January ready for September as our pupil numbers are set to increase again. We have lots more interviewing to do over the Summer term... But we are already planning for next year!

Sean English



Being part of the governing body team at Green Ridge is a real pleasure because it allows me to support the governing body in understanding the systems and procedures we have at Green Ridge.

Since joining, I have presented the Pupil Premium strategy to the governing body, explaining how we will be using the funding and the approach the school will be taking in supporting Pupil Premium students. This is something I am passionate about; every child that comes to Green Ridge should have the same opportunities in an environment where they can thrive, regardless of their barriers.

Giving all children a broad range of experiences also links into the REAch2 11B411 promises. Over the course of this year we have been developing the first phase of this programme, with many of the first 11B411 trips such as 'Riding a Large Animal' and 'Messing Around on the Water' taking place in the summer term. I am really excited about hearing the children's views on these experiences and look forward to developing the programme across all year groups as the school grows.

I have also met with governors to discuss areas such as assessment. This is vital for us to explain how we make and verify our assessment judgements for attainment and progress,

Bina Varsani



It was a great pleasure to attend the official opening ceremony of our school a few weeks ago. It was so lovely to see the children sing and represent the school with great pride. Following that, the governor visits for this term have shown consistent development and progress throughout the school. I was extremely happy to see that our pupil attendance levels are improving and the staff are doing everything they can to support this.

Unfortunately, I will be handing over my duties to another parent governor, owing to work commitments. I have learned a lot from this role, especially how to be a critical friend to the headteacher. I wish all the governors the best of luck and thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of the school!

Laura Nunn



It has been another busy term as a parent governor at Green Ridge. In addition to the regular governor meetings, I was privileged to help out with the interview process for recruiting new staff, as the school grows. It was interesting to see how this works in practice, and the rigorous standards we rightly expect from prospective staff.

In February I visited the school to monitor the areas I have responsibility for: Reception, Community and English curriculum. Some excellent work is happening across all areas, and staff are clearly dedicated to making sure each child has every opportunity to succeed.

I have also spent some time this term working with the PTA, applying for a variety of funds and grants for which Green Ridge may be eligible, in order to enhance children's experiences. We have recently secured a grant to purchase some gardening equipment for the school, so I am looking forward to the school growing some green-fingered children in the coming season!

## Andrea Thorowgood



I decided to become a new governor at Green Ridge because I have such passion for the learning and development of children, especially in the area of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

I have lived in Berryfields for six years now, with my partner and two children.

I am always looking for opportunities to help develop my knowledge further and to use the knowledge I have gained, by helping those in the local community.

## Selina Moore



I have travelled far and wide, my dad was in the RAF; we lived in Germany for many years, toured the UK and enjoyed many an exotic gift from the overseas tours my dad embarked on. I am a keen cycling fan – road racing only! And I enjoy a moment or two at the gym.

I am currently working as a secondary school teacher.

As a teacher I enjoy seeing young people flourish; I am committed to helping young people develop their skills and talents whilst enabling them to learn new habits that add to their unique character. I have always enjoyed being part of a community that seeks to enrich the lives of those that live within it, hence my interest in becoming a governor at Green Ridge Primary Academy.