



Governors' Newsletter

July 2021

A note from the Chair of Governors, Rachel Leach



I cannot believe we are at the end of this academic year. So much has happened in the past year and it has certainly shown us all how resilient the young pupils at Green Ridge Primary Academy really are.

In September, the pupils returned from home schooling and new precautions were put in place to help keep them safe. Staff were quick to start closing the gaps and recover the lost learning the pupils had missed. A lot of the cultural capital that Green Ridge would usually offer the pupils was put on hold. Offering pupils experiences in school became this was the new norm, such as the Christmas panto, which was a huge success within the school community.

In January we went back into another lockdown. The staff at Green Ridge stepped up to the mark again with their engaging remote lessons. When pupils returned in March, staff made them feel at ease and life at Green Ridge resumed as close to normality as possible.

Governors continued their duties throughout, meeting virtually once a term as a governing body. Governors then met with their linked year group to discuss how the year group was progressing and any matters that needed to be addressed.

Once again, I am so proud to be part of the governing body at Green Ridge Primary Academy. I am sure you will join me in wishing all the staff and pupils a well-deserved summer break!

Sophy Davies, Vice Chair of Governors



I visited the school to see Year Three, my link year, for my first in-person visit since the start of the pandemic.

It was lovely to see the children enjoying learning. I joined them when they were writing a story and I heard lots of wonderful and imaginative tales.

The most exciting part of my visit was a fire drill! I joined the children and staff as they made their way to the MUGA. The children followed their teachers in an orderly manner and were really well behaved. They clearly knew what they were doing and understood why it was important to do it.

It was really reassuring to see how quickly all the children got out of the school and to a safe place. I am confident that if the worst did happen, they would know what to do.

Lauren Curtis-Cross



Hello, my name is Lauren Curtis-Cross and I have recently become a non-teaching staff governor at Green Ridge Primary Academy. I am currently the School Administrator and Executive Assistant to the Leadership Team here at Green Ridge and have two children who also attend the school. Outside of

work I enjoy spending time with my family, holidays (when COVID allows!) and have a real passion for interior design.

I'm keen to gain a better understanding of what being a governor entails and am particularly interested in finance and other non-curriculum areas such as HR and Health and Safety. I also hope to follow in the footsteps of Mrs. Erdos and complete the qualifications to become a School Business Manager in the near future.

Being a staff member and parent, I see first-hand what a remarkable school Green Ridge is and how we adhere to our vision and values. It's now a privilege to be a part of the governing body and I'm very much looking forward to applying my skills and knowledge and supporting the school in continuing to reach its full potential.

Have a fantastic summer break!

Sean English



We have come to the end of what has been quite an unusual year. Looking back to the start of the year in September, the changes that the school has been through are really quite astonishing. Much like every school across the country, we have had to completely alter the way we deliver the curriculum, whilst also adapting the

arrangements in school when the children returned. The resilience and the fortitude of the children and staff is quite amazing and makes me consider how fortunate I am to be not only part of the school but also the governing body.

Highlights for this year include the children's return to school and getting back into some of the routines we had previously set. Seeing the opportunities for the curriculum to be enriched through the work of the subject leaders and whole school events, is a much-needed reminder of some of the activities we would typically do within school and a great target to work back to, once restrictions have been lifted.

As a governor, I have been able to give insight into how the children have returned to school and the impact that the January lockdown had on the children. Through the questioning the governing body has been able to provide, we have been supported in the direction the school will be taking in the future and I am looking forward to seeing what the next year brings.

Judith Glover



I was able to meet remotely with Green Ridge Director of Inclusion (who is also the school's SENCo) Vicki Gardiner, Assistant Head Nikki Mackie and Reception teacher Harley Chalmers to discuss SEND and Reception development plans respectively.

Reception staff have updated classroom learning environments to provide high quality stimuli for the children and additional monies have been allocated to ensure that the learning environments are updated regularly. Harley Chalmers is the Music lead at Green Ridge Academy, and she has been working with Bucks Music Service to arrange a peripatetic guitar teacher to provide lessons for some of the children, which has been a welcome opportunity with excellent uptake.

Vicki Gardiner and I attended a remote SEND governance training in late May, organised by Professor Adam Boddison who is the Chief Executive of the National Association for Special Needs (NASEN). This was a useful course as it sign-posted key resources for SENCos and SEND governors as well as some important updates in SEND legislation and guidance and also provided a pool of expertise that governors and SENCos could tap into. Some of the key information shared was national data and research from the Education Endowment Foundation and British Ability Scales. I have since become a member of NASEN and I am receiving regular communications regarding key SEND information and hope to use this to guide and support my governance role in this area.

Laura Nunn



As a parent of two children at Green Ridge, one of the things I have missed most this year is being able to go into the school and see the children's learning environment.

I was therefore delighted when governor link visits recommenced this term, and I could spend some time in the Year 2 classes and observe a lesson they were enjoying on science and healthy eating. I am able to get to know this group of children a little, as I follow the same year group throughout their school journey, and it is always fantastic to see their progress.

In addition to seeing the colourful displays and children's learning displayed proudly on the walls, it was a delight to observe how engaged and happy the children in the classes seemed to be.

I have also been busy applying for various grants and funding on behalf of the school. You may have also noticed from the path behind the school, the new Healthy Living Eco Reading Summerhouse taking shape. Next academic year, this will be stocked with books on healthy living and the environment for the children to read. This was made possible by a grant from Aylesbury Garden Town, and I can't wait to see it when it's full of books and ready to be enjoyed by the children.

Chris Stait



The end of the summer term is rapidly approaching, and I've nearly completed my first academic year as a governor of Green Ridge. It's been a

challenging year, both in terms of getting up to speed with the normal operations, strategy and implementation of the business of a school, and having to do so in the context of the pandemic limiting site visits and personal interactions.

Happily, I made my first on-site monitoring visit in May, which was the first time I'd entered the building,

and the first time I'd been in a primary school since I was a pupil. It was wonderful to see the facilities and the huge effort that had clearly gone into decorating the Year 1 classrooms with a beach holiday theme. With my specific monitoring responsibility for behaviours and attitude it was also good to see the application of many of the technical interventions designed to assist and encourage good behaviours, such as the superhero stories and the zones of regulation.

The most inspiring aspect for me this year was seeing two classes of well-behaved pupils each listening to their teacher and actively engaged in their learning activity. Outside the classes there was a hum of pupils excitedly picking out new books and returning the ones they'd read. There was a real atmosphere of the enjoyment of learning which I think is critical to the success of a school. It helped focus my mind on what I am here to do as a governor, why it's important, and how rewarding it is playing my (small) part in the school community.

I wish you all wonderful summer breaks.

Chris Whiting



This is my last addition to the newsletter as I will sadly be leaving Green Ridge as a governor at the end of this term. During my time with the school over the last two years I have learnt so much on a personal level but have also recognised

just how strong this school is within the local community. The commitment to ensuring each child is given every opportunity to meet their full potential within a secure and stimulating learning environment, is certainly being met, as is Green Ridge's mission statement of "limitless learning; infinite possibilities". I feel this is reflected in the high volume of admission applications to the school each year.

It has been an absolute pleasure to work as the link governor for finance with Tara Erdos over the last two years. She always goes above and beyond in her role as School Business Manager. Tara is a

wonderful asset to the school, as are all the teachers and senior leadership team at Green Ridge. Mr Wanford is no exception, nor is our Chair of Governors, Rachel. In my opinion they are exceptional leaders.

It has been an absolute pleasure to be a governor for your school, and I very much hope to return in future. All the best for now. Stay kind and stay safe.