



# Trumps Green Infant School

## GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Governor Newsletter for the Summer term.

This term we have again met twice as a full governing body. In April we reviewed and approved the proposed budget for 2023/24, and reviewed the updated 3-year budget. Governors are required to take a strategic view, rather than managing operational issues. We have a responsibility to ensure resources are deployed appropriately in line with the school's priorities, that planned levels of financial performance are achieved, and that the school avoids incurring financial loss or waste.

In line with the national picture our school has had to meet the challenge of allocating our resources effectively in order to provide the best educational experience for your children. At times this requires some difficult decisions. In order to build our understanding and expertise, the Governors attended a training session led by a school business manager of a local school. The training has given us a clearer understanding of school finance and the way it is accounted for. The Governing body also attended training on effective questioning and monitoring. We looked at ways to ensure open debate and robust accountability in our meetings. It has helped us to be more focused with questions we ask, and identify how we can use questioning to inform decision and actions. We all value our school, and the ethos that all staff have to provide a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment for the children. The process of monitoring ensures that we can support the school to further drive improvement.

The Governors have begun developing and working on a strategic vision for the school. Our recent Ofsted report reiterated that our Governing body 'represents a valuable range of knowledge, skills, and expertise. Its role in holding leaders to account has developed rapidly in the past year. Governors work positively and constructively with leaders.'

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We want to build on this to develop a sense of higher-level strategic direction to complement the existing annual planning. We recognise that the external world in which we are operating has become more complex and challenging and that over the horizon there are going to be unprecedented times to manage. As we approach these challenges we want to do with so with foresight and awareness and a good understanding of how this might impact our school.

We have vacancies on our Governing body for co-opted Governors. These are individuals who are considered to have the relevant skills to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. If you are interested in joining our Governing body, Miss Morris would be happy to meet with you. You can contact her via the school office.

The Governor profile this term is from our newest co-opted Governor, Kathleen Blain.

My involvement in schools began in the late 80s when I was elected as a parent member at a Scottish school. This was just as Boards were being legally introduced into Local Authority Schools across the UK. Since then, I have been on the Board/PTA etc. of 8 different schools in 5 different countries and in both hemispheres. Until recently, I have been the SEND Governor at St Jude's Infant School in Englefield Green. I 'inherited' this role when Christ Church merged with Englefield Green Infants. I would now like to be associated again with a school in Virginia Water and in the community where I live. Whilst understanding that the role of Governor is strategic rather than operational, I still like to be involved in the school. Since becoming a governor at Trumps Green I have begun weekly visits to the school to support children with their reading.

Yours sincerely,

The Governors

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