

Governor's Newsletter – Autumn Term 2022

It is hard to believe that this time last year schools were re-opening fully amidst concerns over how this would be managed and how pupils and staff would be able to “catch up” after the effects of the pandemic and adapt to the new normality.

Fortunately, our brilliant Headteacher and teaching staff have navigated a route through difficulties including subsequent Covid absences and have worked tirelessly to get things back on track supporting all our children, especially those most vulnerable, to reach their potential despite current budgetary constraints. Governors have been supporting and challenging staff to ensure that our high standards are maintained.

It has been a busy time within the governing body and unfortunately our chair, Hesione Quinn, and Safeguarding governor Vera Jakimovska have had to step down due to work commitments – they will be greatly missed. At a recent board meeting Tony Fallowfield has been elected as chair and Anita Bullock as vice chair.

We have also recently appointed a new Local Authority governor, Caroline Dean, and have two new parent governors Emma Smith and Carrie Palmer – Fry who are starting this term. We have also formed a strategic working group to look at, amongst other things, the implications of the new government white paper on education, the new green paper on SEND education and the school's response to both climate change and the falling pupil numbers in Brighton and Hove.

Governors have helped recruit some great new teachers – Ms. Nina Pelling [Puffins], Ms. Natalie Miller [Turtles], Ms. Amy Flitton [Kingfishers] and Ms Yvie Mason-Godel [Foxes] and we wish them well. We are also lucky enough to have new members of our SEND team and office staff.

As you might imagine our biggest headache currently is budget setting due, in no particular order, to chronic underfunding, the cost of living crisis, unfunded teachers and support staff pay and pension increases and soaring energy prices. We are yet to hear details of any new money being made available from central government or useful advice from the most recent education minister. However, despite these problems, your governing body will be doing its very best for the school and your children whatever the circumstances.

