

Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher – Mrs H West

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July 19th, 2021

Governing Body Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year, I hope this letter finds all our children and their families safe and well. I think we are all looking forward to the end of term and a well-earned break for the summer. I want to sincerely thank you all for your support in helping keep school safe in these unprecedented times, we are all looking forward to September where our families can return to the playground and operate under less restrictions in the future. Please be reassured that the School Leadership Team are fully supported by the Governing Body as they implement any changes advised by The Department for Education.

Whilst COVID-19 has had a dramatic effect on all our lives, there have been some positives and for us, one of the most striking has been the way in which our School has responded to this national crisis. As you will know Mrs West and all of the team at Oaklands Junior School have worked tirelessly over this extended period, with the wellbeing of our children being at the heart of every decision made.

We want to thank the Senior Leadership Team - Mrs West, Mr Holland and Mr Lee, for their outstanding commitment and hard work. As you will be aware following the first lockdown, a parent survey was sent out to gain feedback on the home learning provision. Oaklands Junior School made significant changes as a result of the feedback from this survey and created a service level agreement for staff, parents and children; to enable all parties to understand home learning expectations and what the school would deliver. We were delighted to read such positive results from a follow-up parent survey once these changes had been made and were implemented at the start of this year.

We want to congratulate Miss. Noad on her appointment to the Senior Leadership Team, we are delighted to have you as Upper School Team Leader, we wish you every success in your additional new role.

The staff team remains a constant, we are very fortunate to have such a committed and passionate team of staff. Christine Hopson retired this year and moving forward the Office manager role will be shared by Debbie McLaren, who will be moving from her TA role to the front office, and a new member of staff, Alison Buckley. We would like to welcome them both to their new roles. Please find a full staff list for 2021/22 at the end of this letter.

I am delighted to say the Oaklands Junior School's team of governors has grown this year. We have welcomed Co-Opt Governors, Steve Parlett and G  lle Stark and Parent Governors, Tamsin Cope and Peter Wright, to the team. We are now 16 governors strong and continue to drive our strategic governance.

The Oaklands Juniors Governing Body team,

- Charlotte Kieran - Chair of Governors / Chair of Curriculum & Standards / Stakeholder comms.
- Nada Harding - Vice Chair of Governors / SEND & PP Governor
- Esther Blake - Vice Chair of Governors / Chair of Staffing / Safeguarding Governor
- Hazel West - Headteacher
- Duncan Holland - Deputy Headteacher / Staff Governor / SENCo
- Tamsin Cope - Parent Governor / Stakeholder communications Governor
- Peter Wright – Parent Governor
- Debby Griffiths - Co- opt Governor / Development Governor
- Roger Blake - Co-opt Governor / Chair of Finance & Premises / Subject link Maths
- Suzanne Kaps - Co-opt Governor / Subject link Computing
- Mark Westmore - Co-opt Governor / Local Authority Governor
- Dick Shaw - Co-opt governor / Stakeholder communications Governor/ Subject link Science
- Martin Cox - Co-opt Governor / Subject link English / Link report manager
- Steve Parlett - Co-opt Governor
- Graham Kay - Co-opt Governor / Stakeholder communications Governor / Subject link Science
- Gäelle Stark - Co-opt Governor / Wellbeing Governor
- Vacancy - Co-opt Governor
- Andy Gorham - Clerk to Governing Body

We are delighted to continue to work so closely with our Trust. The Chairs from all the Trust schools meet on a regular basis to share best practice, expand our knowledge on governance and improve standards. Being part of a Trust provides us with significant benefits, including but not limited to our Trust Primary Improvement team and the ability to review decisions for our Trust schools as a group. We were delighted that after consultation with our parent community Corvus Learning Trust took the decision to align term dates with Edgbarrow for the forthcoming academic year, this will positively affect so many of our families. Our sincere thanks to Bob Eley, Graham Oakley and our fantastic Trustees for their ongoing expertise, help and support.

It is a vital part of our role as your Governing Body that we understand and act upon the views of our stakeholders. We have therefore introduced stakeholder surveys for parents/carers, children (Pupil Voice), in year leavers prior to end of year 6 (exit survey), children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), year 6 leavers and all Oaklands Junior school staff. These surveys will continue year on year, to enable us to make comparisons and changes where needed. Thank you to everyone that has kindly taken the time to complete the parent and carer survey so far, your responses are greatly appreciated. The results are presented to the Governing Body and Senior Leadership team and recommendations made as a result. These surveys are all anonymous and we will be feeding back the results of our parent/carers and pupil voice survey in the Autumn term. Here is the link to this year's parent survey if you have not yet completed it, <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=k9-U8cxAHESzZ3GJMpa0Ggm8UWqOJ4JOuWYKYZ9EKtJUQjc3V0RWMzdSQ1cxTk1TMDMzNTUzMfHlRy4u>

We have refreshed our subject link governor programme which assigns a governor to each curriculum area allowing greater insight into the curriculum, targets set and how it is being taught. It provides a great opportunity for the governors to get to know the teaching staff and to provide support and challenge. Over and above this, we have continued to ensure we meet our statutory duties with safeguarding, a top priority for us. We are very fortunate to have Esther Blake as our safeguarding governor, who has a wealth of knowledge in this area.

We want to visibly and substantively improve the community we are embedded within. Part of our strategic plan focuses on our school occupancy numbers and attendance. I am pleased to report school attendance has been 97% this term. In line with the Department for Education net capacity assessment, we can accommodate 32 children per class, as we are a two-form entry school our year groups have 64 children each – total capacity is 256 children. I am delighted to report that this year we have been 97% full and next academic year we will continue this trend with years 4, 5, and 6 all being full - 100% capacity. We have a waiting list for children wanting to join years 5 and 6 in the next academic year. In September we will have 3 places available in year 3. Please support us in our common goal to reach 100% occupancy and recommend your school to prospective parents that need a place for their child.

For the next year academic year, we will launch the vision and mission, embedded in our strategic plan. We are also going to focus on wellbeing of our children and staff as we continue in these unusual times. We are delighted Gælle Stark has joined our team, Gælle brings to the team a wealth of knowledge around wellbeing from her teaching career and extended qualifications. We continue to manage the school budget, decide on how to spend the delegated school budget, and ensure accurate school accounts are kept. Please see the finance and premises report at the end of this letter for an update.

In the Autumn term we will be completing our annual skills audit which helps us assess our team skills and if we have any gaps, if you are interested in becoming a governor and would like to find out more then please contact me, chairofgovernors@ojsgovernors.co.uk.

At this point, we would like to thank our fabulous PTA for the work they do. Their fundraising makes a real difference to the school and the experiences of our children. Please continue to support them over the coming months – it is more important than ever.

The Governing Body want to express their sincere thanks to you as parents and carers for everything you have done, your support is immeasurable. We welcome your feedback and look forward to continuing working in partnership with you.

We want to say goodbye to our fantastic year six pupils and wish them best of luck as they move onto next stage of education. We hope our school has nurtured and encouraged them to believe and achieve; we wish you well with your next adventure!

Finally, we would like to wish our children, parents and staff a restful summer break. The Oaklands Junior School team are very much looking forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Your faithfully,



Mrs. Charlotte Kieran
Chair of Governors

Chairofgovernors@ojsgovernors.co.uk

Finance and Premises Committee Report

An effective learning environment makes a key contribution to helping to inspire, motivate and challenge our children. The headteacher, staff and teaching assistants create this environment, but they cannot do it alone. They need the support of high-quality facilities and sufficient funding to bring out the best in our children. The role of the Finance and Premises Committee is essentially to ensure that we have strong financial management and that we make the best possible uses of our financial and premises resources for the benefit of our children.

We have an annual income of around £1.1m. In common with all schools, around three-quarters of our income is spent on staff costs. The remainder is largely spent on learning resources and on running and maintaining our buildings and grounds. Every year we also plan to run a number of projects to ensure the continual improvement of our school, including a rolling decorating programme.

Despite the current pandemic situation, the school ends the year in a good financial position. We have lost some income streams but have been able to reduce certain costs to balance this out. We have used COVID catch-up funding from the government to bring in supply teachers which has allowed class teachers to work with focus groups in Maths and English and also to purchase a number of iPads. Our challenge for the year ahead will depend on how the current situation progresses, but we plan to maintain and strengthen our position and, once again, we trust that parents will be able to assist us in achieving this.

Roger Blake

Chair of Finance & Premises Committee

Oaklands Juniors School staff - 2021-22

Headteacher: Mrs West
Deputy Head: Mr Duncan Holland

Teaching Staff

Upper School team Leader: Miss Noad (SLT)
Year 6 Mrs Broadbent (formerly Miss Bland)
Mrs Alexander
Year 5 Miss Noad
Miss Hanks
Lower School Team Leader: Mr. Lee (SLT)
Year 4 Mr Lee
Miss Davidson
Year 3 Miss McComish
Mrs Jones
Miss Green

Mrs Avril Burrows: SLT

Ancillary Staff

School Business Manager	Mrs Cooper
Reception/Admin/Secretary	Mrs Alison Buckley
Reception/Admin/Secretary	Mrs McLaren
Admin/Finance Assistant	Mrs Glover
IT Technician/Library	Mrs Skelton
Educational Psychotherapist	Mrs Mullier
Parent Support Advisor (PSA) & Young Carers	Mrs Lenon
Site Controller	Mr Munson

Teaching Assistants/Lunchtime Controllers

Lunchtime Supervisor: Mrs Claire Luther

Year 3 Mrs Yeatman
Mrs Roberts
Miss Dyer
Year 4 Mrs Smith
Mrs Turkington
Mrs Phillips
Year 5 Mrs Townend
Mrs Mooney
Miss George
Year 6 Mrs Griffiths
Mrs Burrell
Mrs Garden
Mrs Luther
Mrs Bratton