



BLEDINGTON SCHOOL
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Dear Parents & Carers,

As we approach the end of the school year, on behalf of the School Governing Board, we would like to thank you for your engagement with the School over the past year. I am sure you will join us in thanking all the Teaching & Support Staff & the amazing volunteers that help, for another exceptional educational year. Without our volunteers (who do everything from; coming in to read with the children, helping at forest school, chaperone on School trips or fundraising with the BSA), many of the activities we are fortunate to be able to offer at Bledington would no longer be able to take place.

I would like to specifically thank Wanda Hughes as she steps down as Chair of the BSA. She has worked tirelessly with her small team of volunteers over the last few years & their fundraising has enabled many additional activities for the school as well as representing Bledington at events such as the Village Fete. We look forward to seeing her take a well-earned rest as new hands take over.

As a board of Governors, we are always keen to oversee engagement throughout the School and, in the same way that Bledington School Association cannot function without volunteers – neither can the board of Governors. We are at present in need of Parent Governors & as such would encourage anyone who can spare a few hours – predominantly in the evening a few times a year - to apply. Unfortunately, due to personal & medical circumstances, I will be stepping back from my position as Chair in October. If my personal circumstances allow, I hope to remain on the Governing Board – particularly as your SEN Governor – to continue to support the School. September will be an exciting time as our lengthy recruitment process earlier this year comes to fruition as Madame Ziebeck begins her new role as Co-Headteacher alongside Ms Kewley.

Overleaf, for your consideration, I have included an overview of the role of a School Governor. Many of us are very time poor with juggling work & family lives & life is never straight forward. I would however please like to urge you to help Bledington Primary School by whichever means you are able to. Our School relies on its volunteers & the more volunteers there are – the less work there is for everyone.

Kindest Regards,

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What is a School Governor?

School governors have a varied and important role, in helping our school run effectively. They have 3 core functions:

- Planning the strategic direction of the school
- Overseeing financial performance of the school and ensuring money is well spent
- Holding the headteacher or school leadership to account

The governor role is strategic rather than operational. Governors don't get involved with the day to day running of a school, instead supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to drive school improvement. They champion the work the school does.

The governing body has 2 established committees & various statutory panels. We meet as a Full Governing Body every term. The Governing Bodies committees also meet together every term to review and discuss the details of the school life. These committees cover:

- Curriculum and Standards
- Resources, Finance, Staffing and Health and Safety
- Pupils, Parents and Community

The statutory panels only meet when they are needed and these are:

- Headteacher Performance Management
- Pay Review
- Complaints
- Staffing
- Pupils
- Request for Absence

Each Governor is partnered with a subject teacher & will meet with that teacher over the year to discuss the Curriculum being taught, as well as some Governors covering things like premises & others specifically SEN & Safeguarding. There is also a Staff Governor on the Governing Board to provide a voice for the teaching staff.

As Governors we also share a common objective of the wider school community – working in partnership with you as parents and carers and staff to ensure that every child can succeed and reach their full potential. To achieve this, and to carry out our role as Governors effectively, we need to know what issues are important to you (so we remain responsive) and ensure that you know what issues Governors are discussing (so that we remain accountable). That is why as Governors we work closely with Ms Kewley, Mme Ziebeck and Staff to ensure that we continue to deliver a high standard of education to our children at Bledington.

I think that the most important thing to note is Governors are a team, not a collection of individuals or groups with separate agendas. However much we may differ in our opinions and experiences we are united by our commitment to the school and the responsibility we share for the school's long term success. We actively encourage Governor's from every walk of life & there is no pre-requisite training. Gloucestershire provide support for Governor's with online training & support as required.

We strongly believe that Bledington is a nurturing environment where every child is given every opportunity to flourish and enjoy this crucial first step on their education journey.

