



INTOUCH

THE GREYSBROOKE SCHOOL GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021



What a Year!! As the summer holidays approach and we reflect back on the year, it seems a good time to take the opportunity to update you on a few things and share some information from the governing body.

COVID has given us another challenging year, a third national lockdown with another 8 weeks of remote school learning! How we looked forward to welcoming everybody back at school on the 8th March! However, with the variants circulating and becoming more transmissible it was unfortunate, but inevitable, that we would be hit with some positive cases in our school community and that many of us would be forced to isolate. We would like to thank you and your children for dealing with such challenging circumstances so positively. Mrs Ballinger has already shared with you initial plans for September. Any further updates will of course be shared prior to the start of term but rest-assured, we will be doing everything possible to keep everyone safe, well and in school!

Academy Update In April we officially became an academy and joined the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership. Throughout the pandemic their support and guidance proved invaluable and we are excited for the future and the benefits that joining ATLP will bring to the school. As part of the transition, the Governing Body is being restructured as some of the responsibilities of the Governing Body have now transferred to ATLP. For example, our Resources Management Committee had responsibility for working with the headteacher to make tough decisions about balancing resources, budgets, and maintaining the building. Responsibility for this has now transferred to the headteacher and ATLP. However, the Governing Body will still carry out its core functions of monitoring and evaluating the progress the school is making towards achievement of its aims and objectives and be a source of challenge and support to the headteacher.

Our New Look Governing Body

At Greysbrooke we are so fortunate in having a team of governors that not only bring a wealth of experience and skills, but who are incredibly supportive of the school and its staff. Our **restructured Governing Body** will be slimmer than before, with just 7 members and will comprise: **the Headteacher; 2 parent governors; 1 staff governor and 3 co-opted governors**. Many of our governors have been in post for much longer than a single 4-year term of office, and with the reorganisation some feel that it is the right time to step down and let a new generation take the school forward.

Farewell and a Huge Thankyou to...

Kate



Kate has been a familiar face on the Governing Body for the last 8 years both as Parent Governor and Vice Chair. Kate runs her own marketing and communications business and the Governing Body has benefitted enormously from her business and people skills. We are so appreciative of the welfare support she has provided to staff during the pandemic.

Lynda



Lynda chaired our Teaching and Learning Committee. As a former teacher, deputy head and educational advisor, the Governing Body has benefitted hugely from her educational knowledge and experience since she joined in 2017.

A New Chair of Governors....

After 8 years, Pete Hedges will also be stepping down from the Chairs position and during the course of the Autumn term will hand over to Joanne Swinton.



For those of you who don't know me I'm Mum to Hannah in Year 3 and joined as Parent Governor when Hannah started reception. I am a Chartered Chemical Engineer and before having Hannah worked for Shell Oil as a process Engineer at their Ellesmere Port Oil Refinery. Having taken a career break I've been in the fortunate position of being able to volunteer and devote time to our school. Over the last four years as well as being Parent Governor I've also been the Vice Chair of the Finance committee, the Health and Safety Link Governor and joined the Strategy Committee during the Academisation process.

With the centralised support provided by ATLP, school governors will now be able to focus more on supporting the school with their specific priorities, in order to ensure that every child meets their full potential. I'm always around school picking up and dropping off Hannah, so please feel free to catch me on the playground if you have any questions. However, I do need to update my official school photograph as my hair is substantially longer since lockdown! It's been a tough year so I do hope you all have a lovely summer and we can feel a bit more normal in September.

Full details of the new Governing Body Structure will be communicated early in the Autumn Term and will be updated on the School Web Page.

Vacancy..... From September we will have a Parent Governor vacancy. Any parent or carer of a pupil at the school is eligible to stand for election for a 4-year term. Parent governors are elected by the other parents and carers. As a parent governor you have first-hand experience of the curriculum and how the school is perceived from the “customers” point of view, which would be a valuable perspective to bring to the strategic management of the school. So, if you're interested, there will be more details sent out in September.

Before we go...

Goodbye Miss Berrow, we are all sad to see you leave especially Year 4 who have loved having you. Wishing you the very best of luck in your new school.

....Welcome back

Mrs Tweedie and Mrs Hall to our lovely Year 3 class. We've missed you.

We should all congratulate ourselves for being a **fantastic** school community. Huge thanks to Mrs Ballinger, all of the teaching staff and non-teaching staff who throughout the COVID crisis have gone above and beyond to support our children and keep the school running. Once again, thanks again to you and your amazing children for coping with all the disruption.

Have a safe, healthy and relaxing summer, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Take care all,
GREYSBROOKE GOVERNORS