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10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents

This year we have all been pleased that the work of the Governing Body has actually been if anything an enhanced version of what we used to regard as normal before COVID struck.

Sadly we have said goodbye to a number of stalwarts who were key in supporting school through that period of turmoil. Alex Robertson served as Vice Chair and Chair of Finance, Resources and Premises – he leaves us a legacy of careful scrutiny and the challenge of being assured as well as convinced about the wisdom of any course of action. Andy Newman was closely involved in Digital Safety and Computing and was able to offer useful feedback as a parent during the development of online teaching during the various lockdowns. All governors are volunteers and we are grateful for such huge contributions. We were delighted when Nigel Wright stood and was elected for a second term of office – he has taken over as Vice Chair and as Chair of FRP - and that Rachel Duke agreed to become a Co-opted Governor as her term of office as an elected governor came to an end. We welcomed two new parent governors – Christina Davies in November and Stewart Patterson in May – to the governing body and they have settled in quickly. As I write there is a vacancy for a co-opted governor: please talk to Mrs Hesketh, Mrs Jones or any governor if you are interested in serving.

The curriculum has continued to be a focus for governors this year. The Achievement, Curriculum, Safeguarding and Behaviour Committee are kept well informed and have enjoyed presentations from Maths and Science, which have been focus areas this year. We regularly review and reflect upon data and progress towards expectations. This is where the meetings between individual subject leaders and governors are really enhancing our work in school. We discuss plans for the year and progress through them as the year goes on, talk about data in individual subjects and what that might mean in terms of what is happening now in school and what might need to happen next. This year we have enjoyed hearing about work on meta cognition, sticky learning, and teacher triads (to improve teaching). At meetings this term there has been excitement about how this work will be further developed next year, as well as our completed submission for the Science Mark.

This committee has also received regular reports on the work being done on Special Needs provision this year. This has continued to be a busy and fast developing area – congratulations and thanks to Mrs Mather who has achieved the NASEN (National Association of Special Education Needs) qualification recently.



The wellbeing and safety of our pupils and staff continues to be at the forefront of our minds. This is a standing item on the agenda of both our committees with work on PSHE, safeguarding and behaviour reported to and discussed at Achievement, Curriculum, Safeguarding and Premises, and Staff workload and well-being, as well as broader Health and Safety being covered by the Finance, Resources and Premises Maintenance Committee. The importance of this has been recognized by the recommendation from Lancashire that a new nominated governor role be created for Well-being.

Staffing is another regular agenda item. As you know, Mrs James, Mrs Watkinson, Miss Bowker and Miss Bollenberg left this year. We have been busy recruiting and feel confident that a strong team of teachers and teaching assistants is in place for next year.

We all enjoyed Sports Day and the guest athletes in September. Festivals, competitions, trips and visits have proliferated throughout the year: our children really do have a very richly enhanced curriculum. Governors continue to be regular participators in all of these activities, as well as attending school assemblies, School Council and Eco Council meetings.

What remains clear to us in every interaction is that our – your – children are very happy in school, their behaviour is excellent, their attendance is usually high, they have a positive attitude to learning, to all aspects of school life, a regard for each other's welfare, and definite ideas about what they would like to see happening in their school. Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

As a Governing Body we are always grateful for the energy and vision of Mrs Hesketh in leading the school, to Mrs Gaskell for all her support as Deputy Headteacher, and to every single member of our school team – teaching, non-teaching and volunteers - for the determination, dedication and joy of learning that they continue to bring to our children every day.

Penwortham Primary School Governing Body