

Headteacher: Miss J MacArthur

## **The Willows Primary School**

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## **Dear Parents and Carers**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Governing Board to let you know about the work that the Governors have been doing over the past year.

The board is small group of volunteers made up of parents, staff, and members of the community. We meet monthly to discuss areas of school business such as finance, the curriculum, pupil progress, safeguarding, and health and safety. Our activities are both statutory and non-statutory, and our programme is varied but well structured and includes a monitoring role, which we carry out both by visiting the school and remotely.

An event affecting the whole school community was the Ofsted inspection that took place in December 2021. During the two days of the inspection, inspectors visited classrooms and spoke to staff and pupils. They also met with Governors to discuss our work and our understanding of what school leaders are working to achieve. We were delighted with the "Good" grading that the school received. It is a testament to all the hard work that Miss MacArthur and her staff have put in over several years to improve the school. We know that their work is continuing, and our thanks go out to them.

We were also very pleased with the Key Stage 2 results that Year 6 pupils achieved in the summer, which were by far the best that the school has ever had. The governing body regularly receives reports on pupil progress, and questions the data to hold the school's senior leaders to account. We want every child to achieve the best possible outcome, including SEND and disadvantaged pupils. Again, we congratulate staff for a magnificent achievement, and we look forward to the publication of the official results in the New Year.

The board regularly monitors the school budget to ensure that funds are appropriately spent. Schools around the country are struggling with limited budgets amid ever increasing spending requirements, so the fact that our school continues to run a balanced budget is commendable. The cost of living crisis will affect the school as much as it does us as individuals but we are confident that our Headteacher will continue to manage the budget extremely well.

In February, Governors came into school for a monitoring evening when we viewed a range of pupils' work across all year groups. This allowed us to see the progress that children make as they progress through the school, and to relate this to work we had previously done to evaluate the curriculum that the school has planned. It was a fascinating evening, particularly for those of us who are not parents at the school and do not have a regular opportunity to see the work up close. The quality of work and the diversity of the curriculum was extremely impressive.

We look forward to continuing our work over the coming months and to supporting and working with Miss MacArthur and her staff.

Mr H Griffiths (Chair of Governors)



