

# Norley CE Primary School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the second Governors' annual newsletter the aim of which being to review the work of the Governing Body over the last academic year and share our priorities for the next.

We really value the parental voice and encourage you to visit the school website to find out more about our Governors and how to get in touch.

We take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Summer break and thank you for your continued support.

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## The Governing Body at Norley CE Primary School

The role of the Governing Body is to ultimately work with the school to ensure it delivers a good quality education. Together with Mrs Kelly as Head Teacher, who is in charge of the day-to-day management of the school, we set the school's aims, vision and direction. We meet three times a year (once per term) as a full board and in addition to this, each governor sits on a sub-committee, which meets a further three times per year. This year we introduced a new governance structure, stream-lining from five sub-committees to two more strategic ones. The Business and Resources committee oversees the areas of finance, personnel and premises, whilst the Curriculum and Community committee monitors and challenges all aspects of teaching and learning, pupil wellbeing, admissions, and links with the church and community.

In addition to the committees and meetings, each Governor has their own specific area(s) of responsibility and undertakes visits to school at various points throughout the year with a particular focus which feeds into our work and continues to drive the school forward.

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## The Governors' Recognition Award

This annual award, introduced last year, is presented to acknowledge the perseverance and determination of a particular Year 6 student as their journey with Norley CE Primary school comes to an end. Nominations for the award are made by every member of staff at the school. This year the award goes to Scarlett who was proudly presented with the accolade by ex-student and last year's recipient, Emma. Well done Scarlett!



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## Reflecting On the Last Year and Looking Forward To the Next

The Governing Body currently have the following shared longer term visions:

- For the school to move to being recognised as outstanding.
- To enable the pupils to experience and reap the benefits of both mixed year teaching and single year teaching in smaller classes.

As you already know, Ofsted visited our school in May and we could have not asked for a better outcome. We knew at the start of the inspection that, under the new Ofsted framework, having been graded as good in our last inspection (2014), the overall grading could not be changed at the end of this section 8 (1 day) inspection. Previously if an inspector felt there was evidence to suggest a change of grading, a 1 day inspection automatically converted into a 2 day inspection incorporating the following consecutive day. However, the new Ofsted framework is such that when a section 5 (2 day) inspection is required, it will take place at some point within the next 2 years. So whilst we wait patiently for our full section 5 inspection, we are celebrating the fact that the inspector saw evidence of significant improvement, which suggests that we are certainly more than a "good" school! I am sure you join the Governing Body in thanking all the staff for their endless hard work, care and dedication - they are an amazing team and it is wonderful to have it recognised in an official report.

In relation to the second longer term vision, we are looking forward to this becoming a reality during the next academic year. An additional teaching space will soon be erected within the existing school grounds which will allow our three mixed year classes to have one term each experiencing a particular focus of their curriculum as a much smaller, single year class.

In addition to the longer term visions, the Governing Body also agrees with Mrs Kelly the top 5 key priorities that form the School Development Plan for the next academic year. For 2018-19 they are: improving pupil progress and attainment in writing; teaching the British Values whilst continuing to have the Christian Values at the heart of the school; using staff expertise to impact on pupils working at greater depth; a review of the praise and rewards system; and consistency in and approach to handwriting and presentation.

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## Success all round!

As well as the fantastic Ofsted report, there has been never-ending success for our various pupil teams. From swimming to tennis, gymnastics to girls' cricket, our small school has certainly been a powerful force in sporting events this year. Furthermore we have also had fantastic results in literary and art competitions too - well done to all involved!

## Thank you . . . .

We would like to pass on special thanks from all the Governors to Vicar Pete Rugen. In his role as Vicar over the Parishes of Norley, Crowton and Kingsley, Vicar Pete has served on the Governing Body of all 3 church schools for many years. As Vicar Pete moves on to preside over a new parish closer to Chester, his ethos, caring nature, support and sense of humor will be missed by everyone and we wish him all the best.

## Welcome ...

In the Autumn term we were joined by Linzi Garratt and Paul Corbishley as Parent Governors, and more recently we have welcomed a familiar face – Alison Eaton. Alison joins us as a Foundation Governor, a role somewhat different to her previous one as a teacher at the school for many years!