

# GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

## The Branch



SPRING TERM 2022

### Welcome to our first newsletter of this school year.

As we enter the second term of this school year, we continue to be impacted by Covid-19 and the restrictions and problems this brings to the school.

We are aware that many pupils and staff have had the virus, and this has affected staffing levels at the school. We are very proud of the way all the staff have stepped up to the additional challenges and pressures this has brought to them to continue to provide the Orchard experience for the children.

Despite everyone's best efforts, we know the pandemic has also meant that the School hasn't been able to invite families into school to celebrate the children's work – let's all hope for better days ahead where we can welcome you back to events and enable you to take a full part in your child's school days!

### 1. Governing Body - Chair / Committee Selections:

In the first Full Governing Body meeting of each new school year, the Chair of Governors and Vice-Chair are chosen along with the Chair of the two committees. For this school year, Nikki Brigg was re-elected as Chair of Governors with Emily Smith was re-elected for the role of Vice-Chair.

Nikki Brigg is also Chair of the Resources Committee and Gary Hampton is Chair of the Curriculum Committee.

### 2. Key Positions:

- Barry Markham is Health & Safety Governor
- Becky Littler is Safeguarding Governor
- Sue Wingrove is SEN Governor
- Nikki Brigg is Pupil Premium Governor
- Steve Mills is Sports Funding Governor
  
- Other governors are, Jenni Dew, Nicky Hopkins, Gary Hampton, Claire Walker and Carol Taylor.
  
- We will continue to structure our link governor roles this year to focus on the school's key priorities.

### 3. New governors:

We have three new governors who joined us last year. Richard Joyce is a co-opted governor, Steve Mills and Claire Walker are both parent governors.

## Thank you

In 2021, Kathy Jones and Ian Taverner left the governing body. Thank you to both of them both for all their work over the years in supporting and challenging the school.

## In memory of Paddy Claringbull.

It was with great sadness that, in 2020 we said goodbye to Paddy, who lost her short battle with cancer.

Paddy had been a friend of Orchard for many years. She started reading as a Grandparent helper and then joined the Governing body some years later.

She would always attend the meetings and enjoyed her time making things better for the children.

## Parent Questionnaire

The Governors would like to thank everyone who has already completed the Parent Survey.

At Orchard Junior School we are continually striving to improve the education and opportunities offered to our pupils.

The answers to the questionnaire help the Governing Body to evaluate how the school is performing

If you haven't had chance to complete it yet there is still time, and a link is available on the home page of the school website or [click here](#).

## Get In Touch

If you have any questions or concerns on any topic, or want general information about the Governors, please get in touch with the school office and they will make sure your question is passed on.

Someone will then make contact with you to take things forwards appropriately.

It is really important that communication lines are open both ways so if there is anything concerning you, please do get in touch.

## School Website

Please remember that our school website hosts all the relevant information about the school, including curriculum plans, policies and many other useful things that parents and carers need to know. Please take the time to look through it: [www.orchardjunior.com](http://www.orchardjunior.com)