



GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS - September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our third annual report to parents. As ever, full details of who we are, how we work and the jobs we do on the governing body are on the school website, along with photographs to help you put names to faces. We currently have two parental governor vacancies. These are detailed on the school website governor page - we hope that you will look at this section of the website so that you can see who we are – and perhaps consider joining us.

As last year, we would like to focus on the work of the three main committees: Achievement and Curriculum; Behaviour, Safety and Premises Maintenance; and Finance, Resourcing and Staffing.

The Achievement and Curriculum Committee ended the Summer Term last year by discussing the SATs results and national data. Once again we were pleased to be able to highlight so many strengths. The committee is looking forward this term to the detailed national data becoming available to us for analysis. Last year, the committee thoroughly examined the new Analyse School Performance (ASP) document in the Autumn Term and the whole governing body spent an evening with the LEA Assessment Adviser looking in detail at all the data from the new Inspection Data Summary Report in January. We were delighted on all occasions that our children are achieving and progressing really well – and that logical next steps were already on the school development plan. We also revised and agreed a number of policies and procedures and continued to monitor progress during the year.

The Behaviour, Safety and Premises Maintenance Committee has continued to monitor the upkeep and maintenance of the buildings as well as receiving regular reports on pupil behaviour and attendance, compliance checks concerned with numerous matters including fire safety, fire drills and risk assessment, legionella, the 5 Year Fixed Electrical Check, trees..... A major focus for us is safeguarding and the new Digital Safety Group has been busy revising our policy and procedures in this important area. We re-examined our Health and Safety Policy, our Supporting Children with Medical Needs at School Policy, as well as discussing in detail policies re drinks brought into school and the administration of paracetamol.

The Finance, Staffing and Resources Committee has continued to monitor spending and at our Spring Term meeting we discussed in detail the budget for 2018-2019, accepted it and recommended it for the approval of the Full Governing Body. The next phase of the School Development Plan was finalised, setting the key agenda items for our meetings for this year. The very important task of appointing teachers to replace Mr Hall and Mr Strange was the focus of our attention as this report went to press last year. What we didn't know at that time was that we would also need to replace Mrs Dykes. The summer term saw this committee busy appointing Miss Andrew and Mr Cowie as well as Miss Flint and Mrs Hughes.

The Full Governing Body made an early decision to take our time looking for a new senior leader. In July 2017 we met and thoroughly reviewed our overall staffing structure. Although we were convinced by the end of that meeting that school would be best served by the appointment of a Deputy Headteacher, Mr Mitchell was asked to prepare an assurance document examining the short and long term financial implications. In October we agreed this as the way forward and a panel was formed to agree the job description, person specification, advert wording, timing, mechanism and so on. In January 2018 we met to shortlist from a very strong field of candidates and agreed the interview process for 5 exceptional teachers. The panel of 7 of our 11 governors spent two days in February working through a variety of tasks and presentations before taking 2 of the 5 to the final interview and selecting Mrs Gaskell to join us as our new Deputy Headteacher from September 2018. This was a lengthy and challenging process for everyone and a testimony to the dedication and commitment of the governing body, as well as the leadership of Mr Mitchell. Although it would have seemed like a long time between the appointment being made and the start date in September, we are thrilled that Mrs Gaskell has joined us as we move forward into the next exciting stage of the school's development.

As a governing body we would once again like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to Mr Mitchell and **all** the staff, teaching and non-teaching, for the passion, dedication, and professionalism they bring everyday to the care and development of your children. We thank also the children for their continued good behaviour, high attendance and positive attitude to learning and all other aspects of school life, and we thank you as parents for your support and involvement.

Sue Pittendreigh, our School Adviser, said in her report last Autumn, "Penwortham Primary is a fabulous school", "determined to provide the very best for everyone of its pupils" (Ofsted November 2016)– our children are a joy, our teachers are dedicated and passionate: you as parents have much to be proud of and pleased with.

Pat Jones
Chair of Governors