

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are well and settling into the new term.

I wanted to write to you to give you an overview of what has been keeping Elvington School's Governors busy over the last few months.

### **Ofsted Inspection**

We are delighted that the Ofsted inspectors confirmed, after their visit to us in February, that Elvington continues to be a good school. The inspectors were extremely impressed by our children, commenting particularly on their behaviour and attitude, as well as their care of and respect for one another. They also commented on the quality of education our wonderful and dedicated staff provide for each and every one of our children, and really importantly, that our children feel happy and safe in school.

The Ofsted visit and input from the inspectors on specific areas of focus was extremely helpful, and I know that Mr Buttery and the whole team are already working to bring improvements in those areas.

The Governors at Elvington would like to thank Mr Buttery and the whole school team for their extremely hard work. We know that our school provides a wonderful environment for our children to achieve their very best and that is because of the dedication of our staff each and every day.

We would also like to thank you, our parents and carers, for your continual support, with particular thanks to those of you who took the time to provide feedback to the inspectors directly.

Finally, we would like to thank the most important group- our children! We are not surprised that the inspectors were so impressed when they met our pupils- they are always excellent ambassadors for Elvington School, whether during the school day, out on visits and residential, or in our community.

Our School's strong leadership and commitment translates not only to excellent academic outcomes for our children who achieved the highest results in the City of York Local Authority area in 2022/2023, but also to wider personal and social development opportunities; as the Ofsted report sets out, Elvington School looks after 'the whole child'. We look forward to continuing to support Elvington School to provide the very best for our children and the community we serve.

### **Membership**

We have spent the last few months making sure that the Governing Board has the right mix of skills and experience to be able to provide comprehensive strategic support to the leadership team. To that end, we have added two new parent governors, Ben Calverley and Joseph Freeman to our Board. Ben and Joseph bring a lot of relevant experience to the work we need to do and I'm really grateful to them for volunteering their time to help our School!

We still have some Governor vacancies and I am working with the Local Authority and the Diocese to see how we can fill those roles.

You can find a full list of our Governors on the school website in the 'Who's Who?' section, and if you'd like to take a closer look at the sorts of things we discuss at our meetings, you can also find records of minutes published in the same section.

### **What have we been doing?**

As you may know, School Governing Boards are responsible for 3 key things:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent.

In practice, this means that we work closely with Mr Buttery and the staff to make sure Elvington School has a clear strategic plan for now and for the future and that the School is run efficiently, effectively and in line with all of our legal responsibilities.

Here are just some of the activities that have been keeping us busy over the past few months:

- In anticipation of the Ofsted visit, we have spent a lot of time making sure we were 'Ofsted ready'; understanding how we could collectively provide any inspector with a transparent view of the School and our strategic vision, and how we are progressing against our development plans.
- Our Governors have made numerous visits to school to see first-hand what our children's experiences are day to day and how identified areas for development and our shared vision are being progressed. This is a really enjoyable part of being a Governor!
- We have given a lot of focus to the School's financial position. Schools across the UK are finding it very difficult to make ends meet in the current climate, and Elvington School is no exception, however; following some detailed analysis we are confident that we are doing all we can to be as efficient and prudent as possible and of course, making sure that all expenditure directly benefits our children.
- Our Foundation Governor, Dave Brett, has helped us to maintain our strong links with the local Church and the Diocese, on top of the many activities that include our children in the wider Church Community- from Harvest and Christmas services to collective worship in School with guest Church Representatives.

Over the next few months, the Governing Board has agreed that we will refresh our short and long-term strategic plans. We will identify, where we can, any opportunities to improve our financial position. We will also be revisiting our 'vision' for our School and will seek opportunities to ask you for your contributions.

I hope this is a useful summary. If you would like any more detailed information about what Governors do, or would be interested in getting more involved, it would be great to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me on [j.sharma@elvingtonprimary.org.uk](mailto:j.sharma@elvingtonprimary.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Jodie Sharma, Chair of Governors at Elvington School