



Governor Newsletter – December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We start this newsletter with a massive thank you to all the school staff. This year has certainly been a challenging one for everyone and the Governors hugely appreciate their hard work and commitment in creating the best possible educational experience for all our pupils in very difficult circumstances.

We would also like to extend our enormous thanks to all of our parents, who have been incredibly supportive and understanding throughout the year. We know that this has been highly valued by Mrs Sherlock and the entire staff team. One of the things that we have learnt over the last nine months is that Eastbrook is a true community and everyone who is part of it will always do their utmost to make things as good as they can be in really challenging circumstances.

As a Governing Body we have had to change the way we work this year so that we can continue to carry out our strategic responsibilities and offer both support and challenge to the staff, whilst being unable to physically visit the school. We have continued to meet remotely each half term and have been able to communicate with staff by Zoom. The Chair of Governors, Louise Askew, continues to have regular virtual meetings with Mrs Sherlock. This term, the Pupil Premium Governor, Jenny Holter, has worked with Mrs Naylor to complete an audit of the pupil premium plan, which will be reviewed again next term to check the impact on pupil progress. Ms Smith, the school SENco, attended a Governor meeting to discuss the ongoing work to support pupils with SEND. There will be more virtual monitoring visits next term and we'll be looking in particular at the curriculum at our future meetings.

There have been a number of changes to the governing body this term, which we believe have extended and enhanced the range of skills and expertise available to the school. After an election earlier in the term, Farrah Heerah has joined us as a Parent Governor and she brings a valuable secondary education perspective to the governing body. We also welcome back Tom Welland as a Trust Governor who, because of his professional experience, will be our Governor specialising in Health and Safety. Marie Willan has kindly agreed to stay on the governing body and remains Deputy Chair. We are very grateful for her skills and expertise in SEND. Rev Frank continues to provide particular support around staff and pupil well-being, whilst Emma Taylor and Rob Milsom bring particular expertise in legal and financial matters.

In addition to our virtual meetings, Mrs Sherlock regularly shares briefing reports to help us keep in touch with all the exciting things going on in the school. Governors also participated

in the remote meeting for prospective new Reception parents and have supported the work of the PTA.

Finally, we would like to wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year. Here's hoping that 2021 will be kinder to us all!

The Governors