

## **Governors' Annual Report 2022-2023**

It has been another busy and eventful year for Old Dalby Primary School. In May, the school underwent a rigorous Ofsted inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005. The Inspectors met with subject leaders, teachers and groups of pupils, visited lessons and looked at pupils' work. They commented on the high expectations the school has for its pupils and were very complimentary about the children's behaviour, the supportive environment and the challenging curriculum. It is a testament to the skill and commitment of the staff that the school retained its grading of "Good" for its overall effectiveness.

The year 6 pupils are to be commended on their excellent SATs results, which reflect their hard work throughout the year. Their scores were above the national averages in reading, writing, SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and maths. As they commence their studies at secondary school, they can be confident that their time at Old Dalby has provided them with a firm foundation for the future.

In June, the school was awarded the School Games Platinum Award, which emphasises the importance of physical activity and play in the lives of the children. The pupils are encouraged to participate in PE and school sport by giving them positive experiences. The Coronation of King Charles III in May provided such an experience, when the children spent the afternoon in their House groups, enjoying games organised by the prefects.

There have been some changes to the Governing Body during the year. Owing to her family commitments, our Clerk, Mrs Anna Duval, resigned at the end of the summer term 2022. Mrs Duval was a well-qualified and experienced clerk, who provided excellent administrative support to the Governing Body. Mrs Sally Oldfield stepped down from her role as a Community Governor in October 2022. During her time as governor, Mrs Oldfield brought valued experience to the Board and served on the Personnel and Finance Committee. I would like to thank both Mrs Duval and Mrs Oldfield for their service to the governing body. The governors are most appreciative of the care, attention and commitment they gave to their respective roles.

In May 2022, elections were held for two new Parent Governors. It was wonderful to see the level of engagement from the parent body, with no fewer than 100 ballot papers being returned. Mr Michael Nicholson and Mrs Catherine Page were duly elected to serve on the Governing Body for a period of four years. Mrs Sue Evans was appointed as the new Clerk to the Governors in November 2022.

Governors have undertaken training during the year on a variety of subjects. These have included online Safeguarding Training from the National College, and Governance in a Church School, organised by Leicester Diocesan Board of Education. In October, I attended a training entitled "Let's talk about academies". Some local church schools are joining Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) from September 2023. As a single academy

trust, we have no plans to move to a MAT at present, though the Governors are keeping a watchful eye on national developments. All Governors attended a useful training in November on “Understanding Curriculum Implementation and Impact”.

This training emphasized the importance of Governor visits in monitoring the teaching and learning in the school. To this end, Governors have conducted a number of visits during the academic year. The visits have examined the teaching of phonics, early reading and spelling, Foundation subjects and safeguarding procedures. Governors make recommendations based on these visits, acting as a ‘critical friend’.

There have been some notable changes to the school campus. Prior to the start of the school year, a lovely 4m x 3m garden room known as ‘The Studio’ was installed to provide a quiet outdoor space for both pastoral and academic interventions and meetings. The Governors acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Parent Teacher Association in raising the funds for this building and are enormously grateful to them for their work. Then, in June, after months of discussion and a public consultation, the much-anticipated building work commenced, with the foundations being laid for two additional classrooms. Following extensive activity during the summer holiday, and a major reorganisation, I am pleased to report that the new classrooms are now in use and proving very popular with their occupants in years 5 and 6. Work continues on the extension to the staff room and the Hall.

Another significant development has been a change in the school catering arrangements. Coombs Catering Partnership have been contracted to provide healthy and nutritious school meals for the children. The school kitchen facilities will also be used to provide meals for a number of other local primary schools.

As governors, we consider it a privilege to serve Old Dalby C of E primary school; it is a school which embraces its Christian values and puts the children at the heart of everything it does. It is a place where children grow and thrive, learning to navigate an increasingly complex world. All this is achieved through the unstinting efforts of its enthusiastic and committed staff, supported by an active parent-teacher association. The Governing Body will continue to support the school in delivering its objectives, striving always to develop and improve.