



Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy  
Henhurst Ridge  
Branston  
Burton Upon Trent  
DE13 9SZ

## Governor Newsletter – July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, what a challenging year this has been for us all, and as the term draws to a close the Governors would like to take this opportunity to update you on what we have been up to across the year.

It has been very difficult being unable to visit the school as freely as we would like to due to Covid restrictions. One of the privileges of governorship is the opportunity to come into a buzzing school community and talk with the children about their school experience, look at the fantastic work being done and to discuss core issues with staff and senior leaders.

However, despite these constraints, we have continued to offer both support and challenge to the school. The Chair of Governors has continued to communicate with Mrs Sherlock on a weekly basis and regular governing body meetings have taken place via Zoom. Our ongoing programme of monitoring has continued in a slightly different format where appropriate. Meetings have been held with staff to review how effectively pupil premium funding has been spent, to review data and finance and to monitor health and safety across the school premises.

In addition, a number of Governors have been involved with the interview process for new staff and those applying for senior leadership roles. Governors offer a range of skills and expertise and have been able to assist the school leadership. Advice around areas of Special Educational Needs and legal matters has been invaluable.

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the PTA for their hard work and creativity in continuing to organise community events and raise funds to support the school, and indeed to all members of the community and staff who have also contributed so much through their own sterling efforts in this cause.

Thank you also to all parents and carers for adapting and coping with ever changing situations, and for being so supportive of the school's endeavours, and also to the team of staff who have shown incredible resourcefulness and commitment, going above and beyond in sometimes exceedingly trying circumstances.

Of course, we couldn't finish without a massive thank you to Mrs Sherlock, who has worked tirelessly, demonstrating excellent leadership over the last eight years in leading the school from an Ofsted rating of inadequate to one of outstanding, empowering what was a demoralised team to fulfil their potential and transforming the culture of the whole



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school community. She will be greatly missed by everyone in the school, and we wish her well for the future.

As you can imagine, recruiting a quality replacement Headteacher during these exceptionally challenging times has not been easy. However, we are delighted to have our Deputy Headteacher Mrs Naylor picking up the reins for the autumn term as interim Headteacher. She has worked closely with Mrs Sherlock for several years and has experience teaching and leading across the school. She knows the school inside and out, and has a really good understanding of the particular strengths and challenges of the school and a strong vision of what is needed to keep improving and maintaining everything that makes Eastbrook such a special place.

Mrs Naylor will be ably supported by a new Senior Leadership Team which will include Mr Owen who will be Assistant Headteacher, Mr Trower who will take on the role of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and Mr Miles, our School Business Manager. With this leadership team and all of our amazing staff the Governors have every confidence that the school will be in very good hands come September.

In the meantime, we will continue to look for a new Headteacher who we hope will be able to start in January. We are mindful, though, that Eastbrook is a very special school, and we will be careful to ensure that we find just the right person to lead it.

We hope you have a good summer, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back next term.

The Governors of Eastbrook Primary Academy