

GHYLLGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

& Resource Base for Deaf Children



The Gore, Basildon, Essex SS14 2BG

Telephone: 01268 450067

www.ghyllgroveprimaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs R Tidiman

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Morely

Dear Parent/Carers

It is hard to believe we are at the end of another school year; it certainly has been one packed with opportunities for those attending our school. We would like to wish our Year 6 pupils all the very best as they move on to the secondary phase of their education, we know that with the foundation of the Ghllgrove learning powers they will all be successful.

Our school is very fortunate to have dedicated staff, many of whom go above and beyond to ensure that the school is a nurturing place for the children. The governing body want to say a huge thank you to all of our staff for thier hard work this year. We know that each role is pivotal to the success of our school and without them things would not run as smoothly as they do. There are a number of staff leaving us at the end of term: Dawn Collier-Russell; Kay Moloney; Joanne Harte; Isabelle Marsh; Kelly Kneller; Christine Johnson and Gill Lazaro who is retiring with 30 years of service. Thank you for your contribution to our school and we wish them success in thier new ventures.

This year saw a change to membership of our governing body therefore we decided to meet every half term and to disband our committees to enable everyone to have a deeper oversight of our statutory functions. The list of our current governing body members can be found on the school website, along with their attendance data at our meetings. We have a vacancy for a parent governor and a community governor and would welcome new members to join us. To be a governor is a fantastic opportunity to give back to the community and it's a privilege to be able to make a positive impact to support pupils in their educational journey. Governors use their lived experience to bring unique perspectives and allow voices from all communities to be represented to create more diversity within the school. If you would like more information before making the commitment or know of someone who would be interested in joining us, please contact me or speak to the school office.

There is a great responsibility on governors to spend public money wisely and after several years of budget cuts we are pleased to report that the school has maintained a balanced budget for 2023/2024 and is on course to achieve the same in 2024/2025. We are provided with comprehensive reports which detail spending and any deviation from the budget, which is essential, as adhering to the budget is becoming increasingly challenging within the present financial climate.

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Throughout the academic year governors have also discussed key data for pupil attainment and progress. Our current data shows the progress our pupils are making from starting points has improved and the bespoke curriculum for those who need it and the impact of interventions delivered for additional support has really enabled our pupils to flourish. As governors we also focus on pupil wellbeing and other opportunities available for pupils as we believe academic achievement is just one aspect of addressing the holistic needs of the pupils at our school.

We regularly monitor the progress of our disadvantaged pupils and those with Special Educational Needs, looking at how the Pupil Premium funding and sports premium funding is spent and what impact this has on their well-being, learning and development. You will find further details about this on our website.

The school have made huge progress in pupil attendance data this year which is to be celebrated. Our attendance data has improved since last year and we are now above the national average.

Governors have analysed the important feedback from the recent parent/carer survey, and we would like to thank all of those who took time to complete it. Some key highlights from it highlights that at our school 96% of pupils are happy and 95% of pupils feel safe. 96% of you feel that your child does well at our school and 93% feel that pupils with SEND are given the support they need to succeed. Overall, it was pleasing to note that 90% of you would recommend our school to another parent/carer. We also consider feedback from a staff survey and through the voices of our pupils so that we can improve our school even further.

We have reviewed and agreed school policies throughout the year, many of which are model policies supplied by Essex County Council or are based on Department for Education guidance.

This year the areas we focussed our monitoring on, included the implementation of a new maths, RE, and KS2 spelling scheme, writing, the relaunch of the pen pals handwriting scheme, marking, assessment, developing a sensory room, provision for those who need additional support to access the curriculum, development of our subject leaders and expanding the capacity of our nursery provision. The governing body have received regular updates from the headteacher and her senior leadership team throughout the year and there has been good progress made against these priorities. We were also able to triangulate this through monitoring by external visitors and from our own monitoring which took place every term. In 2024/25 we will

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continue to monitor the progress against these priorities as well as looking at the set-up of a forest school and implementing a new safeguarding system.

We wish you all a restful and safe summer break and look forward to our return to school in September.

Regards

H Faulkner

Heather Faulkner

Chair of Governors

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