

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

1 September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back, we hope you had a restful and safe summer break.

The last academic year was full of opportunities for those attending our school and we look forward to another successful year ahead. Our pupils have shown they are a credit to the school community, they have participated in numerous events and activities and feedback from other schools and providers is heartwarming and consistently demonstrates that they are applying the Ghyllgrove learning powers.

As a school we are fortunate to have dedicated staff, many of whom go above and beyond to ensure that the school is a nurturing place for the children. 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.

We are also proud to have the support from the parent community; this was especially evident when we unfortunately experienced issues with the site security. Your contributions to the 'go fund' page set up, offers of practical help and support, and the resilience of the staff during this period was what makes being part of this school a privilege.

Our achievements as a governing body this year include:

- We were involved with the schools Ofsted which took place on 24 and 25 September 2024. We were delighted that the school were given a grading of good in each of the individual areas of the inspection resulting in an overall grading of GOOD. There were many positives in the report and the school continues to build upon these and the areas for development.
- 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 is maintaining a balanced budget for 2025/2026 and is on course to achieve the same in 2026/2027. 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.
- Throughout the academic year governors have 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.

- We have regularly monitored the progress of our disadvantaged pupils and for 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.
- Monitoring the progress of the key priorities of the school development plan which has included face to face visits, regular updates from the headteacher and her senior leadership team and feedback from external visitors. One of the key priorities was linked to the 'little oaks' provision and it has been rewarding to see it's growth and the impact it has had on the pupils who use it.
- We have considered a wealth of information on different structural solutions for our school going forward, these included joining a multi academy trust (MAT), joining a federation, other informal collaborative working or staying as an LA maintained school. We believe our school has a lot to offer and want to be sure that any decision made is the best fit for staff and the whole school community. At present our preferred option is to join Cresco MAT as their values and ethos mirror ours, the school are already involved in many aspects of collaborative working with the MAT, they can provide an enhanced service offer for both staff and pupils and most importantly the leadership structure will retain its autonomy. This academic year we will be progressing further due diligence with the MAT to ensure this decision is the right one for our school before applying formally to the Department for Education, at this point there will of course be formal consultations with everyone.
- 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.
- Governors have continued to undertake training and development, and sharing good practice learnt at our meetings. We believe this contributes to our role as required by Ofsted, to offer effective challenge and support to school leaders, and having the expertise needed to help improve the school.
- We have approached both our MP and local councillors as part of our wider communication with the community and to raise areas of concern such as the pavements leading to our school, the traffic conditions at arrival/departure times and security of our site.
- Governors have also attended some school events this year, some of which include the football tournament and go bonkers held in the summer term. We were also asked to judge the Easter bonnet parade which was incredibly difficult as there were so many amazing, brilliant and creative entries.
- This year saw some changes to the membership of our governing body and our decision to meet every half term and to disband our committees has enabled everyone to have a deeper oversight of our statutory functions. The list of our current governing body

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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 hope you will consider applying for the role. 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. An invitation letter and application form will be sent out in the next few weeks. We also currently have two vacancies for co-opted governors. 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 and as part of a recruitment drive, we contacted local businesses to advertise the roles. If you know of someone who would be interested in joining us, please contact me or speak to the school office.

We hope everyone has a successful year and we look forward to meeting you at events throughout the academic year

Yours sincerely

H Faulkner

Heather Faulkner

Chair of Governors, Ghyllgrove Primary School

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