



# Governor News

## Welcome to the Autumn edition of Governor News.

The purpose of our bi-annual newsletter is to share with you the work that the governors do, on your behalf, to ensure that the learning experiences and educational opportunities provided for your child are the best that they can be.



## The Governing Body



Sarah Wightman  
Chair

Parent Governor



Rev'd Lynda Sebbage

Foundation Governor



Annie Throssell

Foundation Governor



Annabelle Reid

Community Governor



Andrew Wilson  
Vice Chair

Community Governor



Helen Ashe

Headteacher



Nick Keefe

Staff Governor



Matt Bowe

Parent Governor



Jo Woodland

Community Governor

## Merry Christmas from the Governors

From all the Governors at Barrow we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy start to 2022. I'm not sure where this year has gone!? 2021 has been pretty challenging for many people and I know the Christmas break from the normal routines will be welcomed by most.

Governance has continued at school this term with all our committee meetings, monitoring and other functions taking place as normal. We are able to confirm and evidence that teaching and learning continues apace at school. In the classrooms it really is business as usual. I think this is worth noting as many recent communications from school to parents have had to focus on guidelines etc and the usual school news has maybe taken a back seat. The updated curriculum is proving popular with children and teaching staff alike. There is an increased focus on a broad range of subjects with science, art, music, French, design technology, PSHE, history and geography all having dedicated time in the week alongside, daily maths, reading and writing. It has been truly delightful talking to both groups about their learning this term – their enthusiasm was contagious. Year 6 - who knew Linnaeus's classification system could be so exciting?!

Thank you to all our parents and carers for their continued support of school – it is genuinely valued and hugely important. And thank you to all our teaching and wider school staff – you are a truly dedicated and hardworking team. With everyone working together, I believe Barrow continues to be a very special primary school. Please look after one another over the holidays and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

**Sarah Wightman**  
Chair of Governors

# Governor Recruitment

Following a vacancy arising on the school's governing board, we asked for expressions of interest from the local community. We were pleasantly surprised with both the number of people interested, their motivations to become a governor and the life skills that they all would bring to the role. Governors fulfil a crucial function for the school and we also realise that it's a commitment, which is much appreciated. Having spoken to all the people who said they were interested, we have decided to appoint Chris Young to replace Annabelle Compson.

## Introducing Our New Governor

### Chris Young - Community Governor



My family moved back to my wife's home town of Bury St Edmunds 3 years ago and my two daughters are currently in Reception and Year 1, we also have a third child on the way! They love coming to Barrow Primary and have quickly made lots of friends and got themselves involved in numerous opportunities that the school has to offer.

I work at King Edward VI School as a teacher of PE and also Science. I have an additional pastoral role as one of the Heads of College. Before we moved to Bury I worked in inner London secondary schools in middle and senior leadership positions. When not at work I enjoy playing tennis at Risbygate Tennis Club and having grown up in Wolverhampton, I follow the ups and downs of the city's football team - Wolves!

I have a strong belief that schools should be, and are, at the centre of the community they serve. I am excited to have the opportunity to help with this in some way through being on the governing board

## A Deep Dive Into Reading

For this term's governor monitoring, I took an in-depth look at the school's approach to teaching reading. Matt Bowe and I spoke to the Mrs Dean, English Subject Lead (and the lady responsible for the awesome new school library) and Mrs Fairweather, as well as pupils from Years 1 and 5.

I always feel lucky to get a behind the scenes look at teaching strategies and to see how these approaches benefit the children. Whilst reading has always taken centre stage at Barrow, this year the school has taken a slightly new approach to the subject which is already proving itself to be successful with staff and pupils. A heavy focus on reading skills is present not only in the younger years but right up to Year 6. KS2's now daily reading and writing lessons put more focus on skills that help them with challenging reading concepts, such as inference and prediction. This allows them to tackle more sophisticated texts with confidence.

I was also happy to see that this reading approach is reducing barriers for children with additional needs, allowing them to access texts that may previously felt out of reach.

The children love their weekly visits to the library when they can choose whichever book they like, however weird or wonderful, to foster their love of turning the page. The only improvement they suggested was the addition of hot chocolate during their time there!

**Annabelle Reid**



