



*Small school, big hearts.
Wise, Responsible and Kind
like the Good Samaritan.*

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of the school year, we want to extend our gratitude for your support. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated parent community, a passionate teaching team, and a school environment that fosters inclusion and success. This newsletter is an initiative by the governors to give you a closer look at what goes on behind the scenes at Buckland C of E Primary School. By sharing this information, we hope you will have a good understanding of our role, the strategic decisions we make, our achievements and the challenges we face. We aim to help you feel more connected to our school community and appreciate the dedication and effort that goes into making Buckland a place where every child can thrive.

Governors' Role and Responsibilities

As governors, our responsibilities include holding the school accountable, supporting leadership and staff, monitoring educational performance, and overseeing financial management. We share this to help you understand that our goal is to ensure every resource is used effectively to deliver the best education possible. Our work is guided by the School Development Plan and our long term vision, focusing on key principles such as our curriculum, teaching and learning approaches, high value for children with additional needs, impactful daily worship, and a strong emphasis on staff well-being.

Strategic Direction

Our strategic direction is shaped by the needs of our students and the broader educational landscape. This year, our focus has included supporting vulnerable pupils, fostering positive attitudes towards relationships and learning, and promoting an inclusive and diverse school environment. We are excited to continue this momentum into the next school year, with initiatives like the Maths Mastery programme enhancing our teaching practices.

Quality of Education

We are proud to report that our school has seen outstanding progress in the quality of education, with high pupil achievement in core subjects. Our teaching team has



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implemented strategies that ensure all students are challenged and supported appropriately. As governors, we monitor and challenge these educational strategies through scrutiny of external reports, regular learning walks and governor meetings. These visits allow us to observe teaching and learning firsthand, ensuring that our policies and practices are effectively implemented. While we place high value on supporting children with special needs, we also monitor that pupils of all abilities are being challenged and stretched to achieve their potential.

Behaviour and Attitudes

This year, we have placed a strong emphasis on supporting SEND and vulnerable pupils, ensuring they feel valued and well-supported. Our efforts have led to positive pupil attitudes towards relationships and learning. The focus on friendship, diversity, and inclusion is evident in our worship and classroom activities, creating a welcoming and understanding school environment where each child's unique needs can be met.

Personal Development

In terms of personal development, we have made significant progress in supporting pupil mental health, with many children showing increased resilience. Our participation in activities like working with The Royal Opera House and Soccer Aid for UNICEF has helped build confidence and compassion in our students.

Leadership and Management

Changes in staffing have been well managed this year, allowing new and returning colleagues to quickly integrate and make a positive impact. We see evidence of workplace fulfilment, with staff feeling connected, autonomous, and capable. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Henry to Sycamore in September, confident that he will be supported in the same way.

Following our outstanding SIAMS inspection, we have ensured a diverse range of worship opportunities throughout the week. Our termly values guide the focus of worship, which is underpinned by Christian ethos but invitational and responsive to the needs of our school, liturgical calendar, community, and world events. Foundation governors support this both strategically and operationally.



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Staff well-being remains a top priority for us. We recognise that parents have high expectations of what the school can offer. Our challenge is to balance these with the resources available. While most parents are hugely supportive, sometimes expectations can be unrealistic given current funding levels and the subsequent possibilities for provision, which can take up significant staff and governor time. Our school vision is based on helping others so we can all be strong and successful – a vision of giving as well as taking.

To enhance communication and give parents more opportunities to engage, governors will be available at the gate before pick-up once a month. This will provide an opportunity for parents to share their views, offer suggestions, and ask any contextual questions they may have. Additionally, we will issue a governor newsletter once a term starting in the Autumn term. We will also reissue the Home School Agreement to strengthen our shared expectations and our partnership with you.

Effectiveness of the Early Years

In the Early Years, our teaching and setting have been exemplary. A Trust EYFS review highlighted the outstanding behaviour, strong language skills, and high engagement of our youngest pupils. The dedication of our EYFS lead and team has ensured that our children receive the best start, fostering confident, focused, and cooperative learners.

Educational Performance

The continued commitment to educational excellence at Buckland is evident in the exceptional achievements of our pupils, as demonstrated by our recent SAT results and highlighted by our outstanding Ofsted rating in 2022. This success is a testament to the dedication of our leadership team, teachers and teaching assistants, who are deeply committed to each child's emotional, social and educational journey. Their unwavering dedication results in excellent overall school performance.

Throughout the year, we have regularly reviewed performance data at the school, class, and individual levels. While we discuss strategies and approaches to enhance progress, the credit for these successes goes entirely to the teaching staff. They diligently review, implement, and support each other to ensure all children receive the best possible support each term. As governors, we want to highlight the strengths of this exceptional team and thank them for making our role easier through their outstanding dedication and teamwork.



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The progress made this year underscores the positive impact of their hard work, and we are confident that our school will continue to thrive.

Financial Performance

Despite the educational budget reductions faced by all schools, our budget for the next year has been allocated efficiently to ensure we maximise the resources available. This careful planning allows us to continue providing high-quality education and support for our students. We look forward to leveraging new opportunities, such as staff turnover bringing fresh perspectives and restructuring leadership roles to further enhance our school's performance.

Focus for Next Year

Our primary goal remains steadfast: to support the leadership team and staff in providing the highest quality education and support for all our pupils. Drawing upon our diverse experiences, life skills, and common sense, we aim to elevate expectations for each child's achievement and enhance parental and community involvement. We will support the staff in their focus on refining pedagogy and curriculum plans in foundation subjects, continuing to develop children's behaviour regulation, achieving the Rights Respecting Schools' Gold award, and managing staff changes to ensure swift effectiveness. Our overarching aims also include embedding adaptive teaching practices, fostering positive character traits, and increasing awareness of diversity within the local community. These efforts are aimed at maintaining high standards of education and ensuring every child thrives at Buckland C of E School.

We hope this newsletter gives you a clearer understanding of our roles and the work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure Buckland C of E School provides the best education for your children. We are excited about the new school year and confident that we are in a strong position to continue our journey of excellence.

Thank you for your continued support and have a fun summer!

Best regards,

The Governors of Buckland C of E Primary School