



The Oak Tree
Federation

Governor Newsletter July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to those of you who took the time to respond to the recent parent and carer survey, especially those taking the extra time to provide more detailed comments. We have taken on board the mix of comments and note that overall parents are happy with our schools and we are very pleased to note that the majority would recommend us to other parents. A couple of comments we would like to share are: *'Firle School is a unique community offering a lucky group of pupils and families a wonderful start to their education over the primary years'* and *'I think this is a wonderful school with motivated teachers who know their pupils well. All staff in the team are friendly and seem to know the children well.'*

We have also taken on board the main concern being poor communication between the school and parents and carers. We will work together with the Senior Leadership Team to assist implementing a Communication Policy to ensure this is more detailed, timely and transparent in the future. We aim to conduct these surveys on a more regular basis moving forward and are looking forward to the opportunity to hear more of your feedback. If you would like to get in touch with us in the meantime please do so via g.collins@oaktreefederation.co.uk

We would like to say a big thank you to all the staff across the Federation for your dedication and energy this year, particularly in respect of the creation, implementation and embedding of the new curriculum. This has been a huge undertaking and one which will no doubt have a positive effect for many years.

There are some new faces on the Governing Board, we would like to introduce our recently joined parent governors Lucy Gribble and Kirsty Blackford, and our new co-opted governors Ali Peeters and Melanie Fowler.

We carry out a programme of monitoring each year. Key areas of focus this academic year have been attendance in line with new directives from the Local Authority and as flagged by the recent Ofsted inspection at Firle. Attendance has improved over both schools as a result and we thank all parents and carers across the Federation for their assistance with this.

We hope you all have a lovely summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Training

This year our governors have taken part in the following training:

- New governor
- Safeguarding
- Vice-Chair
- Safer recruitment
- Health & Safety
- SEND
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Internal audit
- Finance
- Equality & diversity
- Succession planning
- Ofsted
- School improvement

| Link Area | Governor | Link Area | Governor |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| EYFS | Kate Fleming | Foundation Governor | Tamsin Mitchell |
| Pupil Premium | Debra Vice-Holt | SEND | Melanie Fowler |
| Safeguarding | Natalie Bayliss | Skills Audit | Tamsin Mitchell |
| English | Arabella Bridge | Sports Premium | Lucy Gribble |
| Equality & Diversity | Debra Vice-Holt | Maths | Kate Fleming |
| MHEWB | Kirsty Blackford | | |