

# The William Ransom Primary School

Governing Body Annual Report

2023-2024



“At William Ransom, we are committed to providing our children with a safe and nurturing environment that will enable all children to reach their potential, academically, socially, physically and emotionally. Our vision is that every child becomes a confident, self-motivated, resilient and independent learner with a lifelong zest for learning.”



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## Governing Body 2023-2024

Andrew Fennemore (Chair)

Funda Shibli (Vice-Chair & Chair of Personnel)

Tony Plunkett (Headteacher)

Matt Abbott

Narinder Shergill

Ian Albert

Kevin Briggs

Jane Buchanan (Chair of Finance)

Victoria Proddow

Sam Hankin (Chair of Learning & Teaching)

Anna Jackson

Hammad Farooq

Susie Kholodenko

David Massey

Jack Wells (Chair of Premises)

Victoria Wheat (Associate Member)



***Please see the school website for further information on the roles and responsibilities of the Governing Body.***

# ...from the Chair

Welcome to the Governing Body's Annual Report for 2023/24. I hope this report will give you an insight into the work of the Governing Body and allow some deeper appreciation of just a few things that make William Ransom the wonderful school that it is.

I want to start by thanking Mr Plunkett at the end of his first year as Headteacher. Tony has brought a fresh perspective and identified new ways of working. His dedication, energy and enthusiasm to consistently make things better for the children at the school shines through as his driving force. Of course, change takes time to embed and see the benefits, but we are really pleased with how Mr Plunkett, the Senior Leadership Team and all school colleagues have embraced the opportunities presented. Thank you, Mr Plunkett and the whole staff team!



As another school year closes, we have an opportunity to reflect on the highlights of the year and the challenges we have overcome. As I mentioned above, the whole staff team has come together to embrace the changes that have been put in place behind the scenes. Whilst there are too many to mention, some of the most impactful examples are the digitising of some of our systems so that all staff are best able to support the children in the

school, the new History Timeline on the upper floor of the Redwood building and the ongoing transformation of the Activity Suite into a library. This last initiative has helped us better use the space within school, enabling Rising Stars to increase their capacity and eliminate the need to minibus some children to a nearby school for their after school wraparound care – to the benefit of many families.

One of our biggest challenges this year has, after a few years' reprieve, been setting the budget. Whilst we had a healthy carry forward going into this financial year, we predict that we will use nearly half of our reserves in this year alone. Whilst Jane Buchanan will go into more detail in the Finance report, this means that, as a Governing Body, we will be looking much more closely at how we can maximise income streams (particularly from external sources) over the coming years in order to protect the education of which the William Ransom community is rightly proud.

On my frequent visits to school, it has been a delight to witness how our pupils embrace learning and take part in all the activities and lessons that are so wonderfully organised and planned by our diligent staff team. Each and every one of them plays an integral part in the provision of a high-quality education, offered in a safe, supportive, well-maintained and co-ordinated school. I am always inspired by the range of trips and out-of-classroom learning that takes place, especially given the huge amount of additional effort and co-ordination that staff have to put in to make each and every one of these opportunities possible for our children.

Our pupils also overcame some challenges of their own. Drawing on the support of those around them – both in school and at home – they have been able to add the word 'yet' to the sentence "I



can't do that" so that it becomes "I can't do that, **yet**". A small but important difference in overcoming obstacles.

There have been more predictable challenges, and it's a credit to our pupils that they have supported one another through tests (ranging from internal assessments, to nationally-set tests like the Year 6 SATS and the Year 4 multiplication tables checks), demonstrating excellent effort and commitment. But there have also been more personal challenges that have yielded individual stories of personal growth. This might be overcoming bumps in the road of friendships; School Journey in June may have meant some children having to overcome their nervousness of their first period away from home without their family or it might be that piece of tricky learning that has tried and challenged some children more than others. And whilst *what* that learning is will vary between different children, I can guarantee each and every child has faced the challenge and done so admirably.



Turning to the Governing Body. In September, Cassie Clark stepped down as a Governor having moved out of Hitchin. Cassie made a massive contribution to the Governing Body and I thank her for all she did. With three Parent Governor vacancies, we were pleased to welcome Victoria Proddow, Narinder Shergill and Hammad Farooq to the Governing Body. You can find out a little more about each of them in the "Meet the Governor" sections on the coming pages. Each of them brings their own area of expertise and experience to complement those of the existing members.

I want to thank the whole Governing Body for their support and dedication in giving up their own time - alongside their 'day jobs' and busy family lives to contribute to the leadership of our school. We all attend meetings, visit school to see it 'in action' (sharing our learning with other Governors), and bring our own areas of expertise to contribute as best we can.



At a personal level, this has also been my first year as your Chair of Governors and, in the spirit of mentioning challenges overcome, it has been a steep learning curve. I still have a lot to learn, but I wouldn't be where I am now without the relentless and unswerving support of our outgoing Vice Chair of Governors (and previous Chair of Governors), Funda Shibli who steps down this year after 14 years as a Governor at William Ransom. My heartfelt thanks go to Funda, not only for the support at a personal level, but for all you have done for the whole school community over those years and the sheer amount of time and effort so willingly given alongside a work and family life. Good luck for the future!

We are also incredibly fortunate to have a strong School Parents' Association (SPA). They have delivered new and entertaining events throughout the year, not least our hugely successful summer fete. On behalf of the Governing Body, I thank each and every one of you for your hard work and unwavering commitment to the school.

I wish you all a restful and enriching summer break and look forward to welcoming you all back in September for the next chapter in the life of William Ransom Primary School.

*Andrew Fennemore*

# Finance

The Finance Committee meets half termly to review the monthly monitoring reports. We scrutinise the budget headings to understand variances in expenditure against budget in each of the spend categories. We review relevant policies, conduct annual financial benchmarking against peers' schools using the GOV.UK toolkit and help the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to prepare a draft

budget each spring term. The 2024-2025 budget was ratified by the Full Governing Body at our most recent meeting in May.



The 2023-2024 financial year end showed a healthy carry forward. This year the School has set a budget with an in-year deficit, meaning we plan to use a proportion of our reserves. It is a realistic but prudent budget which the Finance Committee will monitor very closely. Our annual financial benchmarking shows our spending is broadly in line with similar schools locally and nationally.

This year the SLT and Finance Committee made the decision to opt out of the Local Authority finance provision and we appointed our own Financial Advisor in March. The benefits are already being felt since a small cost save was achieved and the School has much more control over its postings providing a more accurate picture of expenditure and good quality reporting.

*Jane Buchanan*

# Learning and Teaching

The main role of the Learning and Teaching (L&T) Committee is to monitor and challenge the school to ensure pupils receive a broad, balanced, and ambitious curriculum that meets the needs of all pupils, including any specific needs they have. Each autumn, we review the school's aspirational goals for the coming year and agree on how we will challenge and monitor the areas of the School Plan for Evaluation and Development that have a particular L&T focus.

## Key Priorities for 2023-2024

1. To ensure smooth transition for the school from one Headteacher to another and establish a new Senior Leadership Team.
2. To evaluate progression in writing across the school and identify the areas for development to ensure there is not a downward trend in the data.
3. To make effective use of Provision Map, to explore it to its full potential.
4. To further develop our continually evolving curriculum.

This year marked a significant transition with the appointment of the 4th Headteacher in the history of William Ransom, Mr. Plunkett. Regular meetings between Mr. Plunkett and the Governors have been conducted to provide background, support, and to review new initiatives. The establishment of a new Senior Leadership Team has been smooth, ensuring continuity and stability within the school.

A new Headteacher brings changes to the school's daily operations and guides its evolutionary progress. Each change is thoughtfully made, incorporating diverse perspectives from within the school community. This ensures the school remains a safe and nurturing environment that enables every child to reach their full potential academically, socially, physically, and emotionally.

One of the most significant changes has been the restructuring of the Subject Lead system. Our highly talented teaching staff are now responsible not only for their own classes but also for the overall quality and development of individual subjects across the school. Many subjects have seen their curriculum and resources refreshed and modernised to ensure every subject has a chance to shine.

As Mr. Plunkett begins his second year as Headteacher, we are excited to see these changes embedded and look forward to witnessing the positive impact they will undoubtedly bring.

### **Evaluation of Writing Progression**

The school has placed a strong emphasis on improving writing across all year groups. Initial data at the start of the year showed a lower-than-expected performance in writing at KS2, prompting a comprehensive review. The implementation of the 'Spelling Shed' program, coupled with expanded opportunities for cross-curricular writing, and the introduction of initiatives such as 'free writing' have already shown significant improvements to writing across the school. Feedback has also been extremely positive from the parental community:

*"I just wanted to message in and let you know how much we're liking the transition to doing spellings on the SpellingShed app. We've already seen a HUGE change and his desire to learn them. He's now actively asking to do them, rather than being forced to. Also, it's only Tuesday and he's already consistently scoring 10/10 on the hardest level. We wanted to let you know, because this is exactly the type of modern change the school should be making."*

The new library will significantly enhance the school's resources, creating an enriched environment that fosters a love of reading among pupils. Featuring a varying collection of books and resources, the library will support both academic and leisure reading. During the Summer Fete, the new library plans were unveiled, accompanied by a fundraising initiative to help purchase equipment. The initiative received overwhelmingly positive support, enabling the library to become an even more inviting and enjoyable space for pupils.

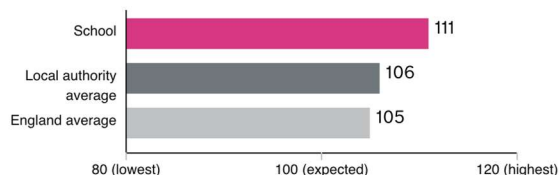
### **Effective Use of Provision Map**

Provision Map (a new EdTech app) has led to an effective way of recording all SEND provisions taking place across the school, as well as all other provisions. The tool has been instrumental in tracking interventions and progress, particularly for SEND pupils. Regular termly meetings with the SENDCo have been crucial in maximising its potential.

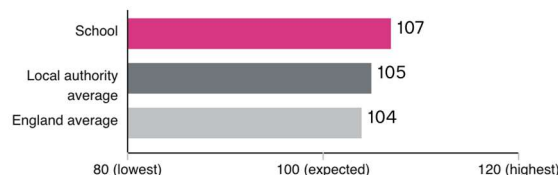
### **KS2 Performance**

At the time of writing, current Year 6 have just completed their SATs and we will get these results towards the end of the Summer Term. Our results from 2022/2023 continue to be extremely positive, with pupils' progress in *Reading* "Well Above Average". There is some work to do with *Writing* but as mentioned earlier in my report, we are already seeing positive change in this area, and our results for *Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling* was at 93%, significantly above the 76% Local and 72% National results. Average scores in Reading and Maths continue to be above national and local average.

### Average score in reading ?



### Average score in maths ?



## Coming Soon...

The development of a new school website is underway, with a planned launch closer to September. The new site promises to be more user-friendly and will facilitate better communication with parents and the wider school community. It will include features such as easy updates for class blogs and an updated news section on the front page.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

The school continues to offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities that contribute to the holistic development of the pupils. This year saw the continuation of popular clubs such as Science Club, Art Club, Choir, and an ever-increasing variety of sports clubs. Additionally, events like Science Week, World Book Day, and author visits have enriched the pupil experience.

## Thank you

We see through the media all the pressures that continue to challenge the day-to-day of working in the education sector and delivering the best for pupils, but we are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated and talented group of Teaching Staff and Support Staff at William Ransom, and I can say with confidence, every day they come to work to provide the best possible opportunities for your child. Many of the staff even give up lunchtimes, after schools or weekends, unpaid, to deliver extra-curricular activities that give our pupils experiences they will never forget.

On behalf of the Governors, I would like to express our thanks for everything they do to ensure all pupils at William Ransom have the best possible opportunities to become confident, self-motivated, resilient and independent learners.

I encourage you to share positive feedback with your class teacher, club organiser, teaching assistant, or anyone else, at **any time** during the academic year. A thoughtful note celebrating something positive that's come home to you, can provide a much-needed boost for the staff who navigate countless demands, uncertainties, and challenges daily. Simply send your message to the office team, and they will ensure it reaches the right person.

*Sam Hankin*

# Meet the Governors

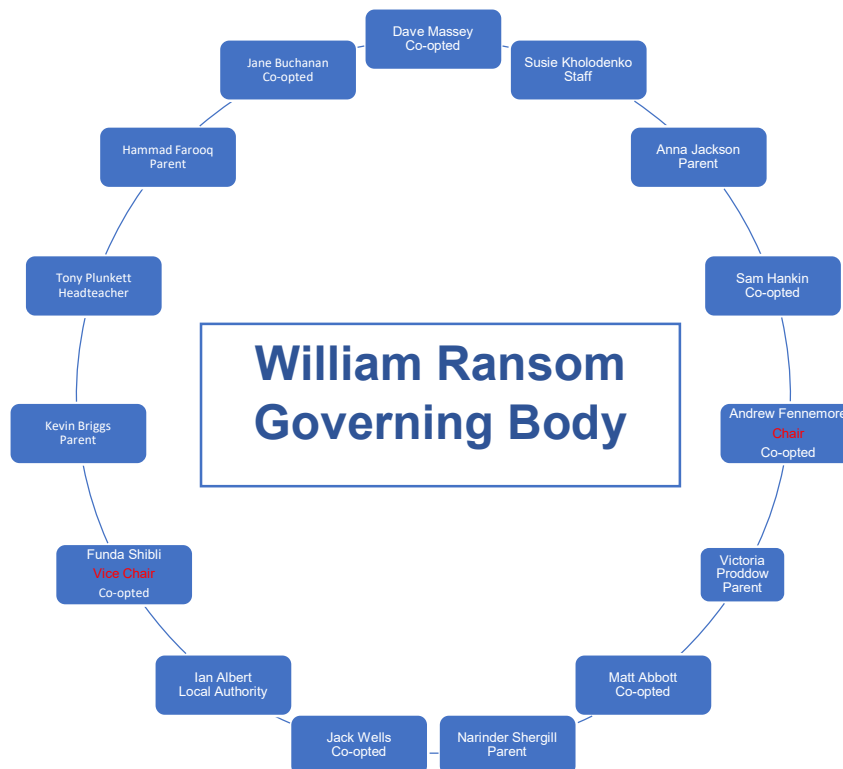


I was delighted to be elected to the Governing Body in September 2023 and have found the last year hugely insightful and a steep learning curve to understand a completely different perspective of William Ransom outside of just being a school parent.

I have two boys at the school in Year 5 and Reception. With my journey starting again at the school with my youngest and Mr Plunkett joining as the new Head, I thought it was a perfect opportunity to take on the role and understand more about the strategic focus behind the scenes and to offer my support and knowledge to continue to drive the school in the right direction. I have a new-found respect for all that the staff do and the operational element that you don't necessarily see as a parent. I have always been proud of my boys attending William Ransom but even more so now that I understand the hard work, dedication and the exceptional foundations that are offered to our children to support their development and future.

Since September, I have been a part of the Finance, Premises and Learning and Teaching Committees, attending regular meetings and working with the Governing Body to ensure that we are focusing on the key topics. I am also a link Governor with Year 2 Cedar class and have conducted various visits throughout the academic year. I am really excited to continue to learn and contribute towards the success and growth of the school and most importantly ensure that the staff and pupils of William Ransom have the best experience and opportunities.

*Victoria Proddow*





# Personnel

In September, I took on the role of Chair of Personnel, leading our Committee through three productive meetings over the year. The strategic objective of the Personnel Committee is to ensure the staff structure, induction and performance management procedures maximise outcomes for all pupils, including their safeguarding, and with due recognition of the importance given to staff development and their well-being.



We also review key policies through the year and this year, the policies reviewed were: Pay and Appraisal, Safer Recruitment, Health and Attendance, Complaints and Whistleblowing. At every meeting, we also reviewed our Governing Body Risk Register to ensure we, together with senior leaders, have been tracking and monitoring key risks and risk controls for the whole school. Whilst most policies adhere to standard templates from Herts County Council, they all have to be reviewed carefully to ensure every part is applicable to the school. Any updates must be seamlessly integrated to reflect our specific needs and circumstances.

In November, three Committee members, alongside an external advisor, conducted the Headteacher's annual appraisal, followed by a thorough interim review in March. This appraisal process serves as a vital annual cycle wherein Governors oversee the Headteacher's progress toward strategic objectives. As well as being a mechanism for ensuring accountability, the appraisal process is supportive and provides a basis for meeting the continuing professional development needs of the Headteacher. It has been a pleasure working with Mr Plunkett in his first year as Headteacher of William Ransom and we look forward to many more to come!

As well as welcoming our new Headteacher, we also welcomed new Teaching Assistants Suzan Barrett, Will Poulter and Kieran Blake. However, it is also the time of year when we must bid farewell to several valued members of our team. We say goodbye to Gilly Mackilligan, Wendy Wagstaffe, Denise Wells, Sonia Davis-Plummer, and Ana Garcia. Each of them has been an integral part of our school for many years.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I want to extend heartfelt gratitude to the entire staff of William Ransom for another great year. Whilst challenging at times, the William Ransom spirit and grit never fails to shine through, and for that we are indebted to every member of the team.

And a final word from me, Funda Shibli...Having been on the Governing Body for 14 years, first as a Parent Governor, latterly a Co-opted Governor and having chaired the full Governing Body and two of the Committees over the years, my time as a Governor has now come to an end. I want to use this opportunity to say goodbye and a huge thank you to all the staff, Governors, parents and children I have had the privilege of working with throughout the years. It has truly been a pleasure and an honour. My very best wishes to everyone for the future.

*Funda Shibli*

# Premises



The Premises Committee has been busy helping to make sure that the school premises can be used to support the needs of our pupils.

Over the last year this has included making some small but key changes that have made a big impact.

In order to allow more children to have access to play equipment, we changed the early years playground layout. This has allowed both the creation of an outdoor learning space for Reception and for Key Stage One to access more play equipment.

The Committee strives to ensure the school building is maintained and looked after for the benefit of current and future pupils. We are pleased to have obtained a warranty for the new roof on the Ransom building, have looked at ways to manage pest control safely and humanely, and monitor issues with trees on the school boundary.

Finally, and most recently the Premises Committee have reviewed and implemented a trial layout of the car park to allow greater use of the space and traffic calming. We will be interested to see if this has a positive impact on users.

*Jack Wells*

## Meet the Governors

Hi, I'm Narinder! I feel fortunate to have been voted in as a Parent Governor at the start of this academic year. I have really enjoyed getting to know the school – all the staff work incredibly hard! The visits and meetings have given me a great snapshot of school life at William Ransom. I have spoken with pupils who share a wonderful plethora of stories and nuggets of information. I am the link Governor for Reception and have enjoyed getting to know the pupils and staff in this year group. As a parent, I have seen the subtle changes and developments since my children started their wonderful journey at William Ransom School. I look forward to continuing to serve as Governor into the next academic year.



*Narinder Shergill*

### GDPR

*At William Ransom Primary School, we take our General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) responsibility very seriously. A nominated Governor works very closely with the Data Protection Officer (DPO) in ensuring that the school protects the personal data of children and staff.*

*Any data breaches are thoroughly investigated, with policies reviewed, additional training implemented and a 'lessons learnt' exercise being undertaken in order to understand how the breach occurred and what can be put in place to ensure that it does not occur again. Where appropriate, breaches are reported to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for review – so far, this has not been necessary.*

# Safeguarding and e-Safety

A Governing Body has a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in accordance with the statutory guidance. All Governors must complete safeguarding training, update it every three years and keep up to date with changes in the statutory guidance. As Safeguarding link Governors, we meet with the Headteacher and relevant members of the SLT to review the School's termly safeguarding report and the Single Central Record (SCR). The SCR is the central record of the safeguarding checks that have to be carried out on all staff and relevant people in school. Safeguarding and Wellbeing is a standing item at Full Governing Body meetings and is always a focus of school visits.

This year the school has moved to a digital reporting system for safeguarding to monitor, track and review individual cases as well as trends. The number of Designated Safeguarding Leads has increased by one to a total of five with the addition of Mrs Delaney to support the team of Mr Plunkett, Mrs Wheat, Mrs Hall and Mrs Gunn. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact any one of them to discuss.

Turning to online safety, it is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material, and the school not only has a responsibility to ensure this happens both during the school day, but also helps educate pupils to stay safe at home. All pupils are taught about the dangers of the online world at various points across the year, in Computing and PSHE lessons, and whenever appropriate in cross-curricular opportunities.

The best way to keep your child safe online at home is to:

1. Install filtering and monitoring software on any devices they use.
2. Stay up to date with the latest changes in technology and websites.
3. Talking to your child openly about what they are doing online, who they're speaking to, and what they think is wrong or inappropriate when spending time online.



William Ransom subscribes to the National College (previously National Online Safety) which has hundreds of videos, guides and webinars which we would highly recommend looking into - <https://nationalcollege.com/parents>

This year also saw the launch of a movement of parents across the UK looking to create a 'Smartphone Free Childhood'. There is growing evidence that social media and smartphones cause lasting damage to young people, so the aim of the movement is to protect childhoods and reverse the peer pressure to buy smartphones and access social media, with a community effort to not allow access until they're older. If you're interested in learning more, you can search for 'Smartphone Free Childhood' online.

*Jane Buchanan and Sam Hankin*

# Pupil and Staff Wellbeing

The positive wellbeing of pupils, staff (and indeed parents) continues to be a priority for everyone at William Ransom. In a year when we have welcomed a new Headteacher and experienced many changes inside and outside of school, maintaining and improving wellbeing has been, and continues to be, a focus. It is a topic that is at the forefront of our Full Governing Body meetings, as well as our Governor visits, of which there have been many this year. As part of a trial, we have introduced a year-group link model, enabling Governors to connect directly with year group staff and pupils to better understand their experience of life at the school. Overall, this has been a success, but there is more to do next year - both in terms of frequency of visits and ensuring this approach gives us the best view to inform our role as Governors and offer an open forum to support the teaching staff.



On pupil wellbeing, while the teaching continues to engage and inspire, it is the wide range of events and clubs which offer pupils the opportunity to expand their experiences and enhance their learning of new skills, sport and visit exciting places. Just a few examples of what's on offer at William Ransom includes football, netball, cricket, lacrosse, dance, chess, cooking, School Council, The Orbit, art, choir and music. Also, in school workshops supporting the History curriculum such as Viking and Romans Day plus trips to

Temples, the Roald Dahl Museum and Herring Green Farm. The school has also benefited from the addition of Sabrina, a mental health support worker. Sabrina supports our school one day a week running 1:1 sessions with parents and pupils, as well as an ongoing 'emotional explorers' programme. Having had the opportunity to join a couple of sessions, it is clear to see how Sabrina's role is improving the wellbeing of pupils, staff and parents at the school. Coupled with the caring teachers, support staff and brilliant SEN team, pupils are well supported. Feedback from our Governors' visits was universally positive in noting how pupils would treat each other with kindness and are engaged and happy. A great example of this is how a number of pupils this year have volunteered to present at assemblies and to class groups focusing on various topics that are personal to them such as neurodiversity, and other conditions, which has helped build a shared understanding and contributed to the overall positivity and inclusiveness of the school.

William Ransom staff continue to excel in their delivery of a quality education for all and as Governors we know that there is a lot more to everyone's role than just the 'day job'. It continues to be a focus of the Governing Body to ensure that we reflect on this and work with the Headteacher and SLT to make improvements where we can. At the end of this year, we conducted a staff survey which will help inform these improvements. There has been a lot of change this year which staff have adapted well to and there will now be a period to enable these changes to embed themselves in the life of the school. The time available to staff disappears as quickly as it arrives and the Headteacher has spent time reviewing timetabling and how to ensure staff have more time to focus on things outside of the classroom too, but that fundamentally improves the 'day job'. This has included improved lunchtime arrangements and looking carefully at the curriculum and tools available to assist with delivering even better and enriching lessons. There have also been measures put in place to manage the senior leadership time to ensure more balanced cover throughout the week.

*Matt Abbott and Victoria Proddow*



# Governors' Day

On Thursday 13 June, we held a Governors' Day where Governors enjoyed seeing the school in action and received a wonderfully warm welcome from pupils and staff. The children appeared at ease with having visitors in their classrooms, confidently discussing what they were doing and sharing their thoughts on their learning and the school.

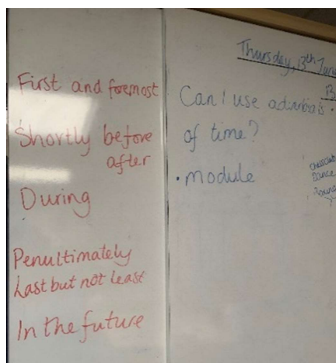


This day was a highlight in the academic year for the Governors. While we often visit throughout the year, there is nothing quite like spending a full day in the school to see and experience the things we discuss in our meetings. It is also a chance to focus on our link areas – each Governor is linked with a class in a year group – and monitor the school development plan. For example, one of the school's priorities is progression in writing, so we took an English learning walk visiting the classrooms, talking to the children about their writing and looking at their books.

We saw first-hand the creative ways in which the staff teach writing and are helping the children to become passionate writers. For example, Reception children were enthusiastically writing about their adventures at the weekend with their families and laughing about making sure their writing was free from "lazy letters"! (The ones without a stick, for example, a lazy b looks more like a 6!). The Year 3s were also busy writing, this time their research about the homes, clothes and culture of the Ancient Egyptians. Over in Year 4, the children were writing about Cora, the heroine of Frindleswylde – a modern day fairy tale. Frindleswylde is set in an enchanted kingdom of frozen summer and Mrs Mackilligan had done a great job making the classroom feel like an ice kingdom despite it being mid-summer! For any Year 4 parents who, like me, struggle to get their children talking about their day, try asking them to tell you about the 'Three Impossible Tasks' Frindleswylde sets Cora!



Our Year 5s were learning to weave adverbials of time into their writing. And if like me, you were a little shaky on these, see the impressive examples the children gave which were truly inspiring a passionate Mrs Rowley-Jones! Gothic Horror was the creative writing inspiration for Year 6 and it was great to see the children entertain each other and Miss Swinburne by sharing their stories and hearing the children describe back what they enjoyed in each other's writing.



Other highlights from our day included talking to groups of pupils about their reading and meeting with the School Council. The School Council proudly shared some of their achievements for the year including supporting changes to the new library as well as encouraging reforms in the school uniform which come into effect for the Year Rs from September. Well done School Council!

Overall, the Governors were made to feel very welcome by staff and pupils. It was great to see the school in action and it was an insightful day for everyone. Thank you everyone for a great day!

*Anna Jackson*

# Governor Training

I have taken on the role of Training Governor this year and my role is to monitor training completed by the Governing Body and to also suggest courses that individuals can complete as part of the GREAT (Governance Ready, Education and Training) Development Pathway. We have further developed the use of this pathway by overhauling the matrix we use to monitor Governors' training records. This took considerable effort, but we are now able to track the training completed more easily and point Governors to the core courses and bespoke ones to help them become more effective.



Early in the academic year, we reviewed how often courses needed to be renewed. We have also identified those Governors with expired/expiring training: all Governors are compliant and up to date.

We have also welcomed three new Governors onto the Governing Body this year: Narinder, Victoria and Hammad. They have completed several courses as part of their induction as Emerging Governors and they will continue to complete more training going forward as they grow further into their roles.

Finally, as a Governing Body as part of our annual group training, we undertook a course on 'Vision, Mission and Strategy'. This course was selected not only as part of the GREAT Pathway for individual Governors, but also to help the Governing Body gain a clearer understanding and a deeper knowledge of our roles in setting the vision, mission and direction of the School.

*Kevin Briggs*

## Meet the Governors

Greetings, I'm Hammad, and I joined as a parent Governor in September 2023. My commitment extends across several important bodies including the Full Governing Body, Finance Committee, and Learning and Teaching Committee.

My educational journey brought me to the UK in 2011, where I immersed myself in learning before returning to manage diverse businesses in my home country. My wife and I recently returned to the UK, settling in Hitchin.

So far this year, I have enjoyed attending Governor meetings and engaged in enlightening school learning walks. Witnessing firsthand, the remarkable dedication and professionalism of the teachers and staff at William Ransom School has been truly inspiring and the enthusiasm and positivity displayed by the-pupils are a testament to the nurturing environment fostered here.



*Hammad Farooq*

# Governor meetings and Visits

School Governors regularly undertake visits to understand more about the running of the school. These visits are an ideal opportunity for Governors to consider what is working well, what may need some improvement and, just as equally, consider any wellbeing and safeguarding concerns of the children and staff. These visits are not audits, but rather Governors acting as critical friends, working with the Headteacher and staff in looking at potential areas for improvements.



Some school visits this year included a meeting with the school's Education Mental Health Practitioner and observing the delivery of two 'Emotional Explorers' workshops with two Year 2 groups. These workshops aim to improve pupil wellbeing through helping them understand their own and others' emotions. We have also had regular Year group link visits where we spent time with the year group teachers, exploring what is going well and the varying needs in the year group and spending time in the classroom looking at overall progress of the children.

During these visits, we also discussed safeguarding and general wellbeing of the children and staff alike. One particular Governor visit this year involved spending a whole day in school – you can read more about this visit in the Governors' Day section.

Governor meetings are an ideal opportunity for Governors to feel more connected with the school, are rewarding and an excellent way to build trust amongst the year group teachers, school support staff and the Governing Body.



*Dave Massey*



The William Ransom Primary School

# Roll of Honour 2024

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Seha     | Farah     |
| Mohammed | Zac       |
| Jake     | Esmee     |
| Alex     | Harkirat  |
| Manjot   | Max D     |
| Oliver B | Suraya    |
| Darcey   | Gladys    |
| Max B    | Seren     |
| Roma     | Ruby      |
| Taran    | Sebastian |
| Evie     | Shenali   |
| Toby     | Ediz      |
| Imogen   | Chloe     |
| Neve     | Edu       |
| Liam C   | Riley     |





## The William Ransom Primary School

# Roll of Honour 2024

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| Adella   | Ja'Reece |
| Rosanna  | Mahitha  |
| Samuel J | Riannah  |
| Thomas   | Alouis   |
| Alina    | Molly    |
| Sartaaj  | Nivi     |
| Arabella | Ali      |
| Daisy    | Ryan     |
| Amelia   | Haysan   |
| Samuel M | Liam T   |
| Tom      | Noah     |
| Joshua   | Meghan   |
| Oliver M | Lily     |
| Parv     | Harry    |
| Jayden   | Lola     |

