

# Governors' Newsletter

YOULGRAVE, ALL-SAINTS' CE (VA) PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Greetings from the School Governing Board!

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

The holidays are all but upon us, and ahead of that school has been very busy with summer activities.

The school sports day was a terrific event and it was great to see so many of you there. Many thanks for showing your support and helping make it such a successful day. A huge thank you to Miss Tonks and Mrs Askew for the organisation of that and the May Pole Dance in partnership with the PTFA; your generosity helped raise about £200 for the school on the day! (...and that is but part of the near £1,000 raised by the PTFA in this school year) – a massive thanks to all, for your time, effort and energy!

Staying with the active theme for a moment, we are exceptionally proud of the school and its achievement of earning a **GOLD** School Games Mark Gold award for 2023.

This award externally assessed on commitment and engagement by:

- Maintaining and growing the school's engagement in the delivery of 60 active minutes a day
- Creating positive experiences, ensuring physical activity and competition provision is designed to reflect motivation, competence and confidence of our pupils
- Supporting a clear focus on transition points (Y2 to Y3 and Y6 to secondary) – includes any individual but also SEND, Pupil Premium, ethnically diverse communities (our Ukrainian children) behavioural challenges, girls only, boys only and free school meals.
- Creating positive experiences that support character development of targeted young people (Change 4 Life leaders, House Captains, Pupil Voice, School Council, questionnaires, Class discussions)
- Advocating to key stake-holders how the School Games makes a meaningful difference to the lives of children, including parents (newsletters, website, Parent Hub messages, notice boards, letters, The Bugle, governor for PE etc.)

A huge amount of, clearly successful work has gone into achieving this goal from the teaching staff, Miss Tonks in particular, and of course the children; really well done to all. We plan to build on this platform of success next year.

## Governors Update

From a Governors point of view; we had a board meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> July in which we approved an investment in a new reading app – 'Accelerated Reader'. As well as giving access to thousands of on line books to supplement the school physical library, it will give teachers greater insights to pupil progression, skills and areas to focus on.



We CARE

Welcoming **Community**  
Achievement **Respect**  
Encouragement

**School Games Award**

**Governor Vacancy**

Have you got the time and the skills we are looking for? Join us and make a difference!

**Attendance**

It's on the 'up' – thank you!

The school teaching staff are receiving training on the app to make the best use of it in school and supporting the children to use at home. Support for parents on how to use the app at home will be shared in the new term.

Mrs Stelling remains absent from school and I am sorry that we do not have any updates for you; we will share any news as soon as we are able to.

However, I am very pleased to be able to announce that Mrs Barker will remain our Interim Executive Headteacher for the next academic year.

## School Attendance

Many thanks for the efforts you are all making to improve our school attendance. Over the last terms our attendance statistics have improved to just a smidge under 96% - our goal is 97% in line with national targets...just a little bit to go...

School attendance is one of the most important indicators of success for both pupils and the school. Good attendance results in success across a range of outcomes, which are key to a child's overall development.

## Pupil Premium

Please can we encourage all parents, guardians and carers to look at eligibility for Pupil Premium and free school meals – this can really help children and also can bring very welcome income into the school. Applications are confidential and the process is straight forward; details below...



**FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

**Pssst**

Did you know that all reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils are entitled to receive a free meal at lunchtime regardless of family income?

And if your child is in year 3 or above, they may also be eligible, if you receive one of the qualifying benefits.

Just log into the new speedy free school meal checker system to see if your child is eligible. Scan the QR code and it will take you straight there.

**SCAN ME**

**DERBYSHIRE**  
County Council

The poster features a blue background with white text. On the right, there is an illustration of two children, a boy and a girl, holding up a large white fork and knife. The boy is on the left, wearing a blue shirt and dark pants, and the girl is on the right, wearing a yellow dress and a yellow crown. The QR code is located in the bottom left corner, and the Derbyshire County Council logo is in the bottom right corner.

### If school meals are free for reception, year 1 and year 2 - why do I still need to apply?

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 get free school meals, but if you receive one of the qualifying benefits you may also get help with:

- the cost of residential school trips
- travel costs to school
- school uniform costs
- music lessons at school

For every child registered for free school meals, schools receive a pupil premium payment each year. This will be used to help your child achieve their best at school.

Use the QR code overleaf to access the portal and check your eligibility.

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)  
email: [checking@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:checking@derbyshire.gov.uk) telephone: 01629 536481



## Curriculum Online

The school curriculum is online at the school website – please do have a look at the learning plans for next year with the link below:

<https://www.youlgraveallsaints.co.uk/curriculum/>

That is all for this newsletter, I wish you all a great summer break and school looks forward to welcoming children back on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of September. (Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of September are INSET days in line with Lady Manners)

Kind Regards  
Mark Shearing

Acting Chair of Governors