



Well, the end of a busy term is almost here. It has been slightly different to normal but this certainly has not affected the enthusiasm of children and staff at the school. As Governors we have been impressed with how well everyone has adapted to the changes which are now becoming more normal. Whole school assemblies attended via Microsoft Teams, Christmas lunches with all the fun but in classes rather than all together and termly learning conversations over the phone instead of in the classroom. We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break which rather like school will be different this year but hopefully will still provide lots of fun and excitement.

Attendance

As Governors we regular monitor the attendance of pupils and compare this to national and local data. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for ensuring that we maintain high levels of attendance. This really does have a positive impact on your child's education.

As you can see below when compared with nationally the attendance figures for Barleyhurst Park are very good.

All schools nationally- Autumn 2019/20 – 95.07%

Barleyhurst Autumn 2019/20 - 95.06% (the Autumn term before Covid-19)

Barleyhurst Autumn 2020/21 (up to and including 30.11.2020) –97.09% (including during lockdown 2)

On specific days when data has been released from the government-

On 12th November, attendance in state-funded primary schools was 90%

On the same day, Barleyhurst attendance was 97.69%

On 19th November, attendance in state-funded primary schools was 87%

On the same day, Barleyhurst attendance was 97.93%

Our continued thanks to you all for following the routines put in place by the school to ensure that minimise the risk of spreading Covid 19 at Barleyhurst school

Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who returned our recent questionnaire. We will be discussing the findings at our Full Governors meeting this week.



Governors in school (all have been conducted virtually)

Meetings

2 x Full Governor meetings

1 x finance and staffing committee

2 x Teaching and learning and standards committee

Visits have been undertaken to look at

Assessment

Early Years

GDPR

Our Chair of Governors has also maintained regular meetings with Mrs Smith

Governing Board of Barleyhurst Park Primary School

Newsletter December 2020



Please find below the final two pen portraits from our Governing board

Andrew Rowantree (Local Authority Governor)

My name is Andrew Rowantree and since 2006 I have been Mr Rowantree to hundreds of children in and around Milton Keynes. I am a very experienced primary school teacher and over the years, I have worked in a range of educational settings. I have loved every minute of it. I like children to enjoy their lessons and I am a true believer in keeping education relevant through thematic and kinaesthetic learning opportunities.

In September, I approached the local authority to be a governor at your school as I want to work with the other governors to support change and ensure that there is a high-quality education provided to all.

I am a specialist technology teacher and I have had the privilege of working with international companies to design curriculum content and test educational hardware and software. I have led the development of curriculums and carefully managed budgets when sourcing funding has been extremely challenging. I am very good at fundraising and eager to continue to work with local industry to support learning opportunities for disadvantaged pupils.

I promise to bring a sense of care, perspective and experience to the role of Development Governor. When suitable, I will question decisions that are made in order to ensure that they are right for the school and will benefit the children.

I am looking forward to seeing what the next 4 years bring

Carol Thomas (Co-opted Governor)

I am the Playleader of Barleyhurst Park and Melrose Pre-School and I have been in this role for over 5 years, I work closely with Mrs Wolfe and Mrs Wheeler as a majority of our children at Pre-school move into the school and we like the transaction to be as smooth as possible for our children and families.

I have worked with children and young adults since leaving school and have always really enjoyed my job and I have worked for Barleyhurst Park and Melrose Pre-school for over sixteen years. I have various NVQs in childcare & Education and also lots of experience in the Care sector.

I have qualifications in Health & Safety level two, Understanding Behaviour and Behaviour Management, Safer recruitment, FGM & Prevent, a certificate in understanding Autism and Asperger's, and I have training on GDPR, Stress Busting, Safeguarding, and am a Designated Safeguarding Lead. I also am working towards a Certificate in Understanding Children and Young Peoples Mental Health and I am a qualified Mental health First aider. I am always keen to learn new things and develop my knowledge to support our young people and their families.

I have really enjoyed joining the Governing board and working alongside the other governors.

