

Dear Parents

The Governors held their first meeting of the school year last week and Mrs Keefe updated us on how well the first couple of weeks had gone and how pleasing it was to see the children settling into the new routines, especially Year Three.

At the end of the meeting the Governors thanked Fiona Brice and Ant Holmes who are retiring as Parent Governors, for all their support and contributions to the Governing Body which has been greatly appreciated.

We now hope you will consider becoming a Parent Governor of Priory Junior School. The parent representatives form the main core of the Governing Body because they bring a clear understanding of the needs of the children as well as a range of different skills which help the Governing Body to be effective.

We appreciate that you all have busy lives but the Governors are very supportive and will help you settle in. I know from my own experience that contributing to the governance of the School can be very rewarding and as Fiona and Ant have outlined below. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, please come and talk to Mrs Keefe – who would be very happy to talk to you about this.

Paul Hill, Vice Chair of Governors

*"I'll be honest...I was nervous about joining the governing body at first as I'd never done anything like this before, but felt very passionately that I didn't want to be a passenger in my children's' education. It's very easy to stand to one side and expect someone else to fill these roles. But I wanted to give back to the school and use the opportunity to help influence areas that matter to me and my children. Parent governors get to have a say in just about every aspect of how the school is run, so it was the perfect channel to make sure my voice, and the voice of my children, was heard and counted. It's been a very rewarding experience - I've learnt new skills, met some great people, have a much better appreciation for how the school runs and the difficult decisions that have to be made, and seen close up the passion and commitment the staff have for providing the best learning environment and opportunities for our children. I really would encourage any parents/carers remotely interested in this opportunity to give it a go and help the school in its aspirations to keep moving forward."*

*Ant Holmes*

*"I had very little experience of education or running a school when I joined the Governing Board. I was quite nervous and wondered what I'd be able to contribute! The thing is we all bring experience from our own lives and backgrounds and that perspective can really help the school. It's been such a rewarding experience to understand and support the decisions the school has to make on a daily basis – although as Governors, the time commitment is only 2-3 evenings per half-term with the chance to visit the school during school time."*

*Fiona Brice*