

ANNUAL REPORT OF GOAT LEES PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD 2021

All Governors, with the exception of the Headteacher, are volunteers. They are unpaid but can claim expenses. The Board is made up of parents, a member of staff and other interested local residents. The meetings are professionally minuted and can be requested from the School Office.

COVID-19 restrictions in some form have continued for much of 2021. Governing Board meetings have been virtual with the help of Zoom but this has not affected attendance which has continued to be good.

Governors have a wide range of experience and skills which they willingly have used. This year these have included project management, finance, health and safety and educational expertise.

The Headteacher reports at each Board Meeting and more information is given and discussed at the Strategy and Resources Meetings. Governors have been keen to understand how the children have been responding to disruption and importantly how the school has adapted to ensure that children have progressed. They have commended the attention which has been paid to 'wellbeing' and the efforts made to continue with annual events such as Sports Day and the Residential stay for Year6.

Measuring academic progress has been difficult for everyone this year but Governors have been kept informed of the latest figures. Goat Lees Primary School is part of the CARE Foundation Trust, a group of mainly one form entry rural schools near Ashford. Headteachers meet, arrange joint training and school activities and support each other. In the Spring we were asked to support Lady Joanna Thornhill (Endowed) Primary School at Wye. They were to be without a Headteacher for Terms 5 and 6 and Ms Adams had been asked to help. We considered the position carefully as it meant that Goat Lees would only have a part time Headteacher. We considered that it would mean that more staff time would be needed and therefore a financial arrangement was made. The Governors at Wye expressed their thanks for our help and we were proud to have been able to assist!

Despite the return to full class teaching COVID continues to disrupt but Governors wish to reassure parents and carers that every effort is being made to provide a good education for their children.

Mrs Rita Hawes
Chair of the Governing Board
Goat Lees Primary School
(A member of the CARE Foundation Trust)