



BRINKWORTH EARL DANBY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Serving the communities of Brinkworth and Dauntsey

Headteacher: Mrs K Butt

Believe to Achieve! *"Roots will grow down into God's love and keep us strong"* EPH 3:17

Monday 20 July 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff,

As we come to the end of a School year it is an opportunity to reflect upon what has happened during the past 12 months. By any measure, this has been a turbulent year with much change, not least at Senior Leadership level - Mrs Walch leaving us as Headteacher in December having been backfilled by Mrs Jackson since September and Mrs Butt taking over in January.

During this period all our staff, ably led by Mrs Jackson and Mrs Butt, have worked extremely hard to ensure that the children received the best education they could provide even though we recognise many of your children experienced more different class teachers than we would have liked.

Our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Cross, retires at the end of term and we, the governors, would like to thank her on your behalf for 17 years of dedicated service to the School, teaching and inspiring children in Brinkworth and Dauntsey, providing leadership and management in her Deputy Head role, and also serving as a Governor for a substantial period of time.

What's the Board of Governors got to do with it and who are we?

We have 5 governors nominated/elected by the parent body, 6 governors co-opted from the local community, 2 appointed by the Diocese and one appointed by the Local Authority. In addition, the Headteacher is a governor and so is an elected member of staff, Mrs Pocock. Most of us live in Brinkworth or Dauntsey.

We are all volunteers and none of us is paid for the work we do. Governors can claim expenses but none were claimed during 2025/26.

Serving independent governors during the year were

Theresa Chapman	Co-opted & Chair	Simon Cope	Parent
Janine Reid Hutchings	Co-opted & Vice Chair	Leo Lester	Foundation /Diocese
Neil Baker	Local Authority	Jo Maitland	Foundation /Diocese
Kostas Beis	Co-opted (Parent)	Catriona McBride	Parent
Rob Blacker	Parent	Claire Mellor Hill	Co-opted
Bernadette Boulton	Co-opted	Ami Powe	Parent
Lizzie Christopher	Co-opted	Emily Williams	Parent

Also served in year

Matthew McGrady	Parent	Ben Spode	Parent
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I would like to recognise and thank Matt McGrady, Kostas Beis and Neil Baker for their service to the school community as they retire from the Governing body as the school year closes. We have a new co-opted Governor joining in September.

What do we do?

Governors have 4 core responsibilities:

1. To ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the School.
2. To hold the Headteacher and senior leadership accountable for the educational performance of the School.
3. To oversee the financial performance of the School: The Link Governors for Finance have been involved with the setting of the budget and the review of financial performance.
4. To ensure that the stakeholder (parent/community/pupil/staff) voice has been heard.

Governors meet every month except August to fulfil these responsibilities. Circumstances this year have meant our main focus has been on core responsibilities 1 – 3. Safeguarding is always on the agenda.

This academic year we set ourselves the specific objectives detailed below.

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| 1. | To recruit a new Headteacher. | This we have done with the appointment of Mrs Butt, who started in January. |
| 2. | To implement the Raising Attainment plan (the RAP), maintain a good Ofsted ranking and improve pupil outcomes. | <p>This work is ongoing. The Chair and Vice Chair attend regular feedback meetings with the Local Authority School Improvement Advisers who observe teaching & inspect the children's work.</p> <p>We are pleased to report that progress is being made and has accelerated since January.</p> <p>The 2026 SATs results received last week show our year 6 pupils have performed above the national average across the board. Well done all!</p> |
| 3. | To boost the role of the Link Governors. | <p>Link Governors go in to School 3 x p.a. to observe teaching, look at the children's books and talk with the subject leads to give the Governors independent assurance on what is happening at the chalk face.</p> <p>This work is developing as our new governors find their feet.</p> <p>There are also Link Governors for Premises/Health & Safety, Finance & Safeguarding.</p> |



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| 4. | To adopt a new School Development plan. | This is currently being written by Mrs Butt and will come to the Board of Governors for approval in September. |
| 5 | To build on communications with stakeholders | Governors set up a Comms Strategy Work Group which reported in June. We have restarted attending Parents Forums, new Parents sessions and the Annual Parish meetings in Brinkworth & Dauntsey. We have also been engaging with you throughout the consultation process to change the School's opening and closing hours. |

I took over as Chair in March from Neil Baker and Janine became Vice Chair at that date. I am very proud of the professionalism, dedication and commitment shown by all our governors, 9 of whom are in their first year of office and bring fresh viewpoints, and 3 of whom have each dedicated 5 years of service to the school community and bring continuity of knowledge and governance experience.

Our objective is the same as yours - the maintenance of a secure, happy and stimulating learning environment in School in which everyone is valued, children feel safe and every child can reach their own unique potential. We strive to be a learning and listening board who welcome and embrace your feedback and use it to inform decision-making. Thank you for engaging with us and supporting us in our work – in particular your recent input to the consultation on school opening hours, and your viewpoints in the parent forums throughout the year. We will be sending out a parent survey for you to provide your views in Term 2 next year. Use governors@brinkworthearldanbys.wilts.sch.uk to contact us on an individual basis in the interim.

I would like to thank the staff who work so incredibly hard. Let us not forget the "back room" staff - the office and catering staff - who also work extremely hard for the benefit of your children.

As Mrs Butt gathers her new leadership team around her, I truly believe that the School is moving into calmer waters. I would like to thank all of you parents and carers for your support for the School throughout the year and wish you, the children and the staff a very happy summer holiday.

With warm regards

Theresa M Chapman
Chair of Governors