



## **MAY 2020**

# **AN UPDATE FROM THE BENTHAL GOVERNORS**

Dear Benthal Families,

We hope that you are keeping safe and well during what is a very difficult time for many of us.

We would like to reassure you that the Benthal Governing Body is continuing to work closely with the Senior Leadership team, supporting them through this challenging period. We are very impressed by and appreciative of the incredible efforts by everyone at the school. Many members of staff have had to work even harder over this period and we are truly grateful for their dedication to the Benthal children.

Of course, there are still very many challenges ahead, especially managing the phased return to school of more children, beginning on the 8th June. As Ms Drew has explained, the top priority in all planning has been and remains the health and safety of all members of the Benthal community – staff, children and their families and carers. The Governing Body will continue to work with the Leadership Team every step of the way, providing for those children who may return to school and those who will continue to stay at home.

Everyone has worked hard to prepare for the return of more children to school and as Benthal begins to open up it will continue to be very important that we all look out for each other, following all of the Health and Safety guidance and the measures put in place by the school.

Once again, we extend our thanks to the school team and send our best wishes to the whole Benthal community.

Stella Sandford - Acting Chair of Governors  
Susannah Barker - Acting Vice-Chair of Governors

## **What We Do: The Governors' Role Explained**

The Benthall Governing Board's role is to be a 'critical friend' to the headteacher which means that we challenge her and support her. Each governor has a specific area of responsibility for example health and safety, pupil outcomes, inclusion, finance, safeguarding and pupil/parent voice. We have individual meetings with relevant members of staff, observe lessons and other activities, discuss issues with the headteacher and report back to the other governors at least once a term.

Overall we are responsible for appointing senior staff, including the headteacher, overseeing and signing off the school's budget, monitoring and evaluating the school's progress, helping to set the aims and objectives for the school, as well as agreeing the policies for achieving these aims and objectives.

We are all volunteers – no one is paid to be a governor – and we are all committed to working with the school to ensure that Benthall continually strives for improvement and provides the best possible educational experience for all of its children with irresistible learning opportunities every day in a safe and stimulating environment where the aspirations of all are high.

## **Your Governors**

The Governing Board of Benthall Primary School is made up of parent governors, school elected representatives, co-opted governors, a local authority appointed governor and the Headteacher

## **Who We Are**

Louise Drew, Headteacher

Fatima Haffaji, Staff Governor

Mandy Ayres, Community Governor

Michael Simpson, Community Governor

Nathan Waddington, Community Governor

Shabnum Hassan, Parent Governor

Henry Greenwood, Community Governor

John Davies, Local Authority Governor

Stella Sandford, Acting Chair of Governors

Susannah Barker, Acting Vice-Chair/Parent Governor

Tom Hindson, Community Governor

## **Contact**

If you would like to contact the governors please email us at the following address:

[governors@benthall.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:governors@benthall.hackney.sch.uk). Please note that emails are reviewed weekly so there may be a short delay before you get a response.

If you have a concern regarding the day-to-day running of the school please discuss this with any member of the teaching staff, office staff or senior leadership team. If they cannot resolve the issue then they will pass the details on to the relevant member of staff who will respond to you as quickly as they can. The Governing Board is not able to get involved at this stage and emails regarding these concerns will be forwarded on to Ms Drew.