

# Redbourn Primary School

## END OF TERM GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER



**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

*To all Parents/Carers,*

Following on from the fantastic updates at the end of last academic year covering Ofsted grading, end-of-Key Stage results and a variety of extra-curricular activities, we are pleased to mark the end of another term filled with achievements at Redbourn Primary School, with much to celebrate since September. Alongside focus on key curriculum-based learning objectives, children have enjoyed a range of trips and visits, ranging from 'Life in a Fairytale Castle' workshops, to visits to St Albans Cathedral. In addition to this, everybody is very proud of how well the children represented the school at community events, including the Redbourn Christmas Market and regular sporting fixtures.

On behalf of the entire Governing Board, a massive thank you to each and every member of staff; we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard-working team supporting the school and pupils.

### **Governing Board Updates**

As well as our regular meetings with the school's leadership team and participation in a range of school events, this term has had a significant focus on delivering a smooth transition of senior leadership within the Governing Board following Cara Brazier's retirement before the summer. We are delighted to introduce **Karen Morley**, who was elected as our new Chair at our most recent meeting.

Other senior roles within the Governing Board are unchanged: Sarah Murray and I will continue in our roles as Vice-Chairs, with Sarah chairing the Strategy Committee and me chairing the Curriculum Committee, while Dean Rodrigues continues to chair the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee.

The huge amounts of time which all members of the Board give on a voluntary basis is hugely appreciated; thanks to all our volunteering colleagues for their ongoing commitment to the school. A particular thank you to **Pierre Carion**, who will finish his 4-year term in February, and welcome to **Tim Gebhard**, who has recently joined as an Associate Member.

We would also like to take the opportunity to once again congratulate **Tracey Couch** (an Associate Member of the Governing Board) on the news of her recent appointment to St Hilda's as Deputy Headteacher – while she will be greatly missed, we are delighted that she has such a fantastic opportunity.

### **“Meet the Governors”**

To provide more information about the Governors (our roles and our skills) for those who have expressed interest, we plan to send an “Overview of the Governing Board” pack in the New Year to provide more information about membership of the different committees. In addition to this, we have

also introduced a new “Meet the Governors” section at the end of each termly newsletter, in which we will provide some background on two or three of our group, starting with Karen and Dean.

As always, if anybody has any questions for Governors, please do feel free to reach out to [governors@redbournprimary.co.uk](mailto:governors@redbournprimary.co.uk) However, it is important to note that this account is only monitored during term-time, and accessed by a single Governor to ensure impartiality, should any issues need consideration by other members of the Board.

## **RPTA HIGHLIGHTS AND FUNDRAISING**

Our incredible RPTA have continued to provide imaginative and fun events and projects, which are not only enjoyable for children and adults alike, but also raise significant amounts of money for the school. This term has seen a Bingo Night, Christmas Quiz and the publication of a Recipe Book, as well as the excellent Winter Warmer last week. Thanks to all who have contributed in any way, either by volunteering, donating or attending, and a particular thanks to **Sophie Stockdale** and **Charlie Smith** for their tireless efforts and leadership.

The topic of sustainable school finances remains a key focus of the Governing Board: as a brief reminder, schools receive ~£4-5k from Government per child on roll and recent projections from Hertfordshire County Council have indicated significantly fewer children in the Redbourn catchment area in the next few years. A similar trend exists across all nearby districts; as of last year there were more than 1000 vacant places at primary schools in St Albans district alone.

Against this challenging backdrop, many parents and others have asked about ways in which they can provide financial support to the benefit of the whole school – the **RPTA Thrive Fund** was established last summer as a user-friendly, gift aid enabled means of providing any level of contribution on a one-off or recurring basis. The Fund had a successful launch; for anyone wishing to learn more, follow the link above or via the school’s website homepage. Any/all donations are hugely appreciated and support the ability of the school to enrich the children’s education.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I wish you and your children a relaxing and happy winter break and a very merry Christmas to those who celebrate. We look forward to building on this term’s success as we move into 2026.

Vicky Knowles  
Co-Vice-Chair of Governors

## **MEET THE GOVERNORS**

### **Karen Morley Chair of Governing Board**

I am delighted to serve as the new Chair of Governors at Redbourn Primary School.

With many years' experience in school leadership, I am passionate about fostering environments where children and adults alike feel empowered, valued and supported. I am a School Leader of Education and have facilitated a wide range of training programmes including leadership development pathways and supporting whole-school improvement across primary settings. I also worked for five years as a Key Stage 2 English SATs moderator.

As a deputy head teacher, I worked with the Headteacher to move two schools to an Outstanding Ofsted grading, and I now work for a Teaching School as a Senior Advisor within their Early Career Teacher Appropriate Body service. I also continue to tutor children from Year 1 to Year 9, with a specialism in supporting students with an SEN.

I have two children of my own and have lived in Hertfordshire for the last 28 years. I enjoy hiking, Padel, camping and travel.

Now, at Redbourn Primary School, I am excited to work alongside the Headteacher, staff, children, parents and Governors and support the school to sustain its strong standards, nurture every child's love of learning and prepare them not only academically but socially and emotionally for the next stage of their journey.



### **Dean Rodrigues Chair of Finance, Personnel & Premises Committee**



I have been a Governor for a little over three years now, having been elected as a parent Governor in October 2022 (when our eldest son had started Year 1... fast forward to today and he's been joined at the school by both his younger siblings – so we are “fully invested”!)

It has been a tremendously rewarding experience in that time – being a Governor provides a different lens and a different appreciation for how a publicly funded school operates and the multitude of decisions, choices and priorities that need to be taken day-in, day-out, with every day bringing new opportunities and challenges!

My intention in applying to be a parent Governor was to see if some of my professional experiences and expertise could be useful additions to support the governance of the school, particularly in

the area of finance. In a professional capacity I work for a global investment bank where I am a Managing Director and head of our UK business, but working with clients all over the world. Our role generally involves advising the senior management (CEOs and CFOs) and Boards of Directors of large companies and other sorts of investors on how they go about delivering significant aspects of their strategy, in particular where that strategy involves large financial transactions, such as mergers and acquisitions. This involves a combination of strategic and tactical planning, detailed financial analysis, and navigating the important governance requirements of different sorts of companies – all of which I felt could have degrees of relevance when applied to school governance, particularly when financial dynamics are challenging for all the reasons we have been recently describing.

Since joining the Board I have been constantly and consistently impressed by the breadth and depth of diverse expertise and experience – from education to legal to HR to strategy to medical and safeguarding, this list goes on, and all of which is volunteered to the benefit of the school. It's a privilege to be a part of.