

# REDBOURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## END OF YEAR GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER



Friday 17th July 2026

To all Parents/Carers,

The 2025-2026 academic year has been filled with highlights and memorable moments and there is plenty to reflect on as another school year draws to a close. Children have participated in a range of interesting and exciting learning experiences both in and out of school, including immersive educational days exploring topics such as the Great Fire of London, Fairytale Castles and Toys from the Past. Pupils have also taken part in a variety of successful school trips, gaining valuable experiences beyond the classroom when visiting local destinations such as St Albans Abbey or traveling further for experiences such as the PGL Residential. Whether representing the school at musical performances, sporting fixtures or other events, our pupils have consistently embodied our THRIVE values. Their exemplary behaviour, positive attitudes and enthusiasm have been a credit to the school and a source of great pride for us all.

At the end of this term we say 'goodbye' to our Year 6 cohort as they move on to their next adventures at secondary school. They certainly ended the year on a high note, delivering an unforgettable production this week, which featured brilliant acting, singing and dancing performances! I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and their families for their contributions to school life and wish them all the best for the future. We are also bidding a very fond farewell to some very valued members of staff - thank you and good luck to all. Particular thanks to Tracey Couch, who has worked at Redbourn for ten years and is leaving for a Deputy Head role. Congratulations, Tracey; your new school is very lucky to have you.

### SCHOOL UPDATES - DATA

At the time of writing, schools across the country are still awaiting their end of Key Stage Two SATs results, which have been delayed this year. Although the data is not currently available, we can still congratulate the Year 6 children on their hard-work, positivity and maturity as they sat their tests. No matter what the results are, we are very proud of you all.

However, there is very positive data to share from other school year groups:

- 62% of children reached GLD (Good Levels of Development) in Reception
- 84% of Y1 children passed the Phonics Screening Test
- 89% of Y4 children passed the Multiplication Tables Check, with 38% of those children reaching full marks

These results are excellent and a real testament to the hard work of the children and staff - we are very fortunate to have a school team who are so committed. Thanks also to parents and carers for your support in enabling the children to reach their full potential. It is important to note that, although academic results are important, we are equally proud of all our pupils who hit personal milestones this year and made progress in their own learning journeys. Well done to all.

### SCHOOL UPDATES - PLANNING AHEAD

A letter regarding national falling birth rates and the impact that this has had on our school was sent in March. As Governors, we have a responsibility to plan carefully for the potential consequences which fewer children could have on finances and ensure that the school avoids significant financial difficulties in the future. All maintained schools receive money based on the number of children on roll and we have carefully considered data from Hertfordshire County Council regarding the projected number of pupils in coming years. As was communicated in March, we have begun the consultation process of reducing the Reception class intake to one class from September 2028/29. This will mean that in future the school becomes one-form entry, but would not have any impact on children currently attending. It is also important to note that, should the number of children in the village increase, the process can be paused or halted and there is the option for Redbourn to remain or revert to a two-form entry school.

Changes have also been made within the Early Years, as from September 2026 we will have an amalgamated Nursery and Reception provision. The trend of declining birth rates was reflected in our lower than usual number of applications for

Nursery and once numbers had been confirmed, the decision was taken to merge Nursery with Willow and Lime classes. The Early Years team, in co-ordination with Senior Leaders and Advisors from Herts for Learning, have planned an exciting and engaging new curriculum to ensure that the children in Willow and Lime classes all have a smooth and happy start to their time at Redbourn, settle quickly and reach their full potential. We look forward to welcoming these new pupils and families.

All decisions are made with the very best interests of the school and children in mind and I would like to thank parents and carers for their support and understanding as we make these difficult but very important choices.

## GOVERNING BOARD UPDATES

The Governing Board have continued to meet regularly and visit school to take part in and support a range of different events. In addition to half-termly and termly meetings for different committees, Governors have met with the Leadership Team, teaching staff and LEA Advisors. We have also supported pupils in their learning, facilitating Writing and Phonics booster sessions in the spring term and invigilating during the SATs. The annual Working Together Day was productive (although a little hot!) but as ever, the calendar highlight was handing out stickers at Sports Day! Thank you to the entire Board, who give up huge amounts of their time voluntarily to support the school.

As promised in our last newsletter, we are continuing with our termly Governor profiles. In this edition, you can find out a little more about Sarah Moriarty and Tim Gebhard. If anybody does have any questions for Governors, please do feel free to reach out. The e-mail address to contact us at is [governors@redbournprimary.co.uk](mailto:governors@redbournprimary.co.uk) although 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.

## PTA HIGHLIGHTS AND FUNDRAISING

We are so lucky to have such a committed and pro-active PTA, who have continued to organise fun and exciting events to raise money for our school. School finances are a regular agenda item at Governing Board meetings, and the financial challenges facing schools are part of a well-documented national picture. Events held by the PTA this year have raised almost £14,000 and these crucial funds have gone towards further enrichment of the children's curriculum. Examples of how this money has been spent include new computers, reading books, maths journals, an Interactive Whiteboard and subscriptions to learning resources such as Reading Eggs and Monster Phonics. The whole school also enjoyed visiting the Wonderdome this term, which was funded by PTA money. Thanks to all who have contributed in any way, either by volunteering, donating or attending. Particular thanks to Sophie Stockdale, Charlie Smith and Marie McGrath, whose efforts have yet again been tireless.

On behalf of the Governing Board, congratulations to all staff, parents and pupils on a very successful school year. We wish you a happy and restful summer break and look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Vicky Knowles

Co-Vice-Chair of Governors

Chair of Curriculum Committee

# MEET THE GOVERNORS!

## **Sarah Moriarty**

**Safeguarding, PPG & Attendance Link Governor**

I have been Safeguarding Link Governor for Redbourn Primary School for almost 5 years and more recently have added Pupil Premium Grants and attendance to my responsibilities. With many years' experience in Social Care settings as a Social Worker, I have a passion for the safety and wellbeing of children and a firm belief that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

As a parent at Redbourn Primary School, I believe that I am in the privileged position to experience how the school works from the inside and am always made to feel very welcome by both the staff and children when I undertake my link visits. My role involves championing safeguarding, looking for proactive ways to ensure resources are used in the most supportive way and providing critical and supportive challenge.

My favourite part of my role is meeting with the children to understand their perspective and on a recent visit I was very pleased when a group of children explained to me that they feel safe at school and if they ever feel worried they talk to each other or their teachers, showing the nurturing, supportive and respectful environment created within the school setting. I am consistently impressed by the commitment of all staff at Redbourn Primary School and look forward to seeing what the next academic year brings.



## **Tim Gebhard**

**Health & Safety Associate Governor**

I am very pleased to be welcomed as a new parent governor at the school, having been in the role for a little over 6 months now. I have two daughters who have been part of the school for a few years, one of which will soon move up to secondary school, the other going into Year 4.

I have been asked to join in a capacity as the Governor to help with Health and Safety at the school, a very broad subject and it's been fascinating to start to work with the team more regularly.

In my professional life, I come from a construction background and run a private architecture practice. Health and Safety forms a prominent part of architectural practice and I'm well versed in safety requirements and practices. I intend to use these transferable skills to help shape the school's policies and procedures so that ultimately the pupils and the employees can enjoy their day to day lives at this fantastic school which we have in the village.

