



Autumn Term 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians

We are at the start of a new term and a new school year, and we, as Governors, look forward to meeting children both old and new, and to supporting you all as we continue to nurture your child's education and wellbeing whilst they are in our care.



I am fortunate, as Chair of Governors, to have a Governing Body that is completely committed to the school and that takes an active part in its governance and oversight. In July, Governors from across the Diocese attended a special service of thanksgiving in the Cathedral, and we were delighted that one of our Governors, Janet Ruthven, received long-service recognition from the Acting Bishop for over ten years of service – including her time as Chair prior to my appointment.

Where possible, Governors visit the school for discussions with staff and learning walks, as well as less formal events such as school performances and fairs. I joined the school for the Year 6 end-of-term performance and was impressed and delighted by the talent and skills that the children showed. The Year 6 leaving service was also an amazing testament to the engagement the children have shown during their time at the school. We wish our leavers all the best in their first weeks at secondary school.

One initiative that has been showing great benefits for the children is Skills Builder. Led by Mrs Charman, [Skills Builder](#) is a global scheme that helps children develop eight essential and transferrable life skills. We have been fortunate to have externally funded access to the learning materials and assessment for the past year and have seen how the children's skills have developed. We will continue the initiative and place great importance on the encouragement of life skills, especially as they have heightened importance with the developing use of AI in the workplace.

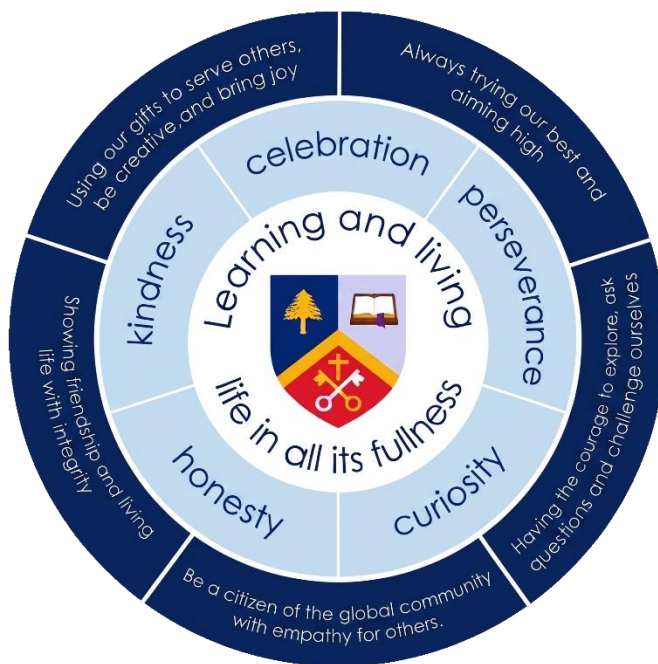
In addition to Skills Builder, our local Rotary organisation has been encouraging children to participate in its Young Writers and Young Artists schemes. We have seen some amazing results, and certificates were presented this year by our Vice-Chair, Katy Harris, at the leavers' service.

We were also very grateful to all the parents who took part in our survey during the year. We were pleased to see the confidence you placed in the school and its support for your children. The feedback you provided has been very helpful in improving what we do at school, so please accept our thanks.

One area that you said you were less happy about was the school catering. When Hampshire County Council closed their catering service, we had to look for a new caterer. This process was supported by catering consultants, and we selected what we considered to be the best organisation for the school. However, the quality of the food and service did not live up to our expectations and, as a result, we have moved to a new caterer who has started with the school this week.

In addition, we submitted a capital grant application to the Diocese of Guildford, which provides key support to the school, for the replacement of our kitchen. It has taken two years to get the grant approved, and we are delighted to say that the new kitchen was installed over the summer holidays. The facilities for our catering staff have been transformed and will make the preparation and serving of meals simpler and more streamlined. One further aspect of the redesign will be the future installation of a serving hatch in the corridor from the main entrance to the hall, so that children can collect their meals and take them straight to the hall. This requires special planning permission and will likely be put in place during the Easter holidays next year. I am sure our chef would be happy to let you have a peek at the new equipment!

In the early part of the year, the Governors met with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher to review the Vision and Values of the school. We last did this over four years ago and felt that it was right to do so again, especially following the appointment of Mr Hogan-Fleming as the new Headteacher. The morning was very fruitful, and we were pleased to see how our Vision and Values aligned with those expressed by you, the parents, the children and the staff. Mr Hogan-Fleming has communicated the revised Vision and Values, built on our previous ones, and we will seek to embed these into the school in the coming year.



You will also know that we received the results of the Key Stage 2 tests late this year due to problems with the contractor undertaking the marking and collation of results. However, the wait was worth it, as the results were excellent and reflected the immense effort that the children and staff have put into achieving excellence this year. We congratulate all involved.

This reflects the focus that staff have placed on pursuing good outcomes with the children, and one area that has contributed to this has been the *Improving Standards Team* project led by Mrs Wrighton. Working with the Local Authority, Mrs Wrighton has led staff in an in-depth look at what children have been achieving, analysing attainment data and taking actions for each child as a result. Every child has been the subject of detailed discussions about progress and specific areas for improvement. Whilst the project formally closed at the end of last term, we will continue with the approach as it has been invaluable in helping the children to succeed.

You may also be aware of Benedict's Law, which came into effect in June this year. This requires schools to have a specific policy for managing allergies and action plans for how to manage allergic reactions when they occur. The Governing Body approved the new policy last term, and all staff and Governors have attended training on its implementation and on how to manage incidents.

As we look to the new school year, the Governors wish to thank Mr Hogan-Fleming for taking leadership of the school and for what has been achieved in his first year here, together with the skill, dedication and expertise of all staff.

Yours sincerely
Graham Hudson
Chair of Governors