



End of year report 2021/22 from the Chair of Governors

New Head

Mrs Smith has had a very difficult first year in post! She was appointed at the tail end of covid; has often taught on a full-time basis covering staff sickness, as well as being the Head Teacher at the same time. The Governing Board has been pleased at how quickly Grace had the measure of the school and got to know the parents. As a result, energy has been injected into the school. This year alone, she has raised standards of behaviour, challenged staff, looked at the curriculum, made changes to staffing and has made a wide-ranging impact in St Wenn.

Parents

The Board has been very pleased with how parents had received the new Head Teacher. Only a small number of families didn't attend the school's annual main fundraiser- Hag-Gla. Attendance is usually indicative of the positive manner and high regard of the school and the Head Teacher respectively.

Inspection

St Wenn had been waiting for Ofsted a long time. Indeed, Mrs Smith's predecessor, Mrs Berry, had not been inspected in 4 years. The Chair and Vice Chair attended the inspection on behalf of the Board. This was a very challenging day! The Board knew that momentum had been low and was well aware how easy it would be for the Inspectors to 'find fault'. However, evidence was demonstrated and points made so the inspectors could see that we were all on the same page, same direction and felt positive with Mrs Smith's leadership. A 'Good' result was in the best interest of the school.

Governance

During the Inspection, the Full Governing Board had been very honest regards our concerns. The Inspectors asked why we had allowed a situation to get to the point it had? Consequently, there are implications for the Board in terms of how we move forward regards triangulation, monitoring the quality of provision and setting our priorities. In September, it is hoped that we can make a start to improve these areas.

The Board

As we say 'Goodbye' to Naomi Mathers, we acknowledge her vast contribution, experience and time spent on the Board – some 7 years! As a new Chair of Governors, I appreciated someone who could be trusted and I thank her personally for all the support she has given me as my Vice-Chair. I would like to welcome 2 new Associate Governors to the Board, who will use this time to learn more about

the school, staff and pupils. Jeannie Hodkin and Alix Farquhar will sit on the Board without voting rights, until such time as a Governor vacancy is available. Given their backgrounds and areas of expertise, Jeannie will sit on the Standards & Curriculum Committee and Alix will be a member of the Resources Committee.

Michael Rabone has agreed to become a joint Vice-Chair of Governors, preferring to undertake the role alongside someone. Elizabeth Lawrenson has agreed to compile the Governor Monitoring Planner for one year only and would like another Governor to work alongside her in this area.

I take this opportunity to thank all Staff, Pupils, Parents, Carers, Governors and the wider community for all their support to our school. I very much look forward to the new academic year and the challenges it will, no doubt, bring. I am certain that together, we can meet them head on!

Richard Fenwick
Chair of Governors
04.07.22