



# Elham School Governors


## Newsletter No 42

### September 2024



Welcome to

# Elham Church of England Primary School



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## The sum of the parts

How special is Elham School? We are very fortunate in having a dedicated and highly professional and committed staff; a superb site with lovely grounds for sports and play – and a Forest School; a very supportive PTA; a Board of Governors that hopefully contributes to the mix; and quite wonderful children who care for each other and respond fantastically to their learning.

All those ingredients add up to a great school. But it is Elham School as a whole that is the thing that matters rather than any of the individual ingredients, even though each one is remarkable in its own way, and we could not be the great school that we are without them.

We probably do not tell everybody within and outside the school how special we are as frequently as we should! Please do not miss an opportunity to sing our praises.

We said farewell at the end of last term to a great Year 6 who are now heading off to their various secondary schools with, hopefully, their time at Elham providing a firm foundation upon which to build. The end of term production of Matilda in which Year 6 starred, ably supported by all Key Stage 2, marked the end of their Elham life in great style.

We welcome to the Elham Family the children now joining us in Acorns together with their parents and carers. We hope that you very much enjoy being part of Team Elham!

*Trevor Gasson, Co-Chair, Elham Governors*

## Hotting up

It will be apparent that work is underway around the main entrance of the school to install our new heating system which hopefully will ensure that the school is warm and cosy throughout the coming winter.

Both the main school and Acorns classroom [the Sir John Williams Hall] will be on the new system. It consists of a new LPG fueled boiler, the storage area for the tank being to the right of the main entrance, and an air source hot water tank. The boiler will be very much more efficient than the old one while at times when heating is not required the hot water system can work alone. This should mean that we can look forward to reduced energy costs.

The hot water system is already in place and the boiler will be installed at half term. We would like to thank the Diocese for arranging and funding most of this work, although the Governors will be funding 10% of the cost.

## Academy Status

Over the last decade or so there has been increasing encouragement from the Government for schools to become part of an Academy Trust. Elham Governors' view has been that if there were significant benefits then such a move would be carefully considered but hitherto, we have not been persuaded.

However, more and more schools are now joining Academy Trusts, and the Governors have agreed that, if only to ensure against finding ourselves isolated in a growing world of academies, we should more positively investigate the pros and cons not only of joining an Academy Trust in principle but also the merits of individual Trusts.

It is early days and rest assured there will be full consultation before any decisions are made.

## Governor Changes

Stephanie Hammond has now resigned as the Local Authority representative on our Governing Body due to work pressures. As an experienced educationalist Steph brought valuable expertise to the Governors, and we are delighted that she will continue to visit the school on an occasional basis to share her experience. We thank Steph for all that she has done for the school hitherto and her continued support.

In her place, Keith Gallon has been appointed as the new LA representative. A resident of Elham for some while, Keith has a legal background, and we welcome him to the team.

This year we have Co-Chairs, with Parent Governor Ed Robbins sharing the position with Trevor Gasson. This is very much part of an ordered succession, the intention being that Ed will assume the Chair in his own right in September 2025.

## Thank you, PTA!

**The highly successful Summer Fair at the end of last term, which raised £2857, marked the end of yet another year of fund raising by our superb PTA. The total income for the year was a remarkable £15,354.**

**The refurbished Nest has been funded by the PTA. Our thanks to Claire Greenwood and Ashley Gendek for prepping and painting the room, and Rachele Basford and her colleagues from Pfizer for assembling and fitting the cupboards. It looks superb!**

**We now look forward to the Early Years Play Area being renovated soon, again with the benefit of PTA funding.**

**As finances get ever tighter the work of our wonderful PTA becomes ever more critical in providing extra special facilities around the school, and activities that otherwise would not be possible.**

**We thank all of the PTA team, not least Chairman Rachele and Treasurer Saira, for their excellent work.**