

**Governing Body**  
**'Keeping in Touch'**



July 2025

**ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of the academic year, it's the time of year when your Chair of Governors reflects on this academic year achievements and our exciting plans for next year.

Firstly, I would like to give a huge thanks to all staff for their dedication, commitment and hard work to ensure that Elm Park provides a safe, stimulating environment for children to grow as individuals and academically. Sadly, at the end of this term we say goodbye to Mrs Kidger and Mrs Abraham together with a long-term supply teacher Miss Kay. We wish them all success in the future and thank them for their contribution to the all-round education of our children. A warm welcome to Miss Smith, Mrs McCall and Mrs Phipps who will be joining our team next year. Additionally, Mrs Swann and Ms Jess Green will return from maternity leave, and we look forward to working with them again in the next academic year.

As well as staff, I would like to extend my thanks to all Governors who give their time free to work in partnership with the school leadership team focusing on the performance and strategic direction of the school. This year 4 Governors have left, Ms Caitlin Bragg, Mrs Vicky Drew, Dr Kate Turton and Ms Tracy Lenzy who during their term of office contributed to making a difference to our children's experience at Elm Park and I thank them for their support. During the year we welcomed Mr Dan Willams to the board who hit the ground running with his involvement in an Ofsted inspection!! Currently we are looking for two co-opted Governors and a Parent Governor (election in September). Being a Governor is a rewarding experience as you are part of a leadership team shaping the strategic direction of the school and impacting of the success of our children. If you know anyone interested in becoming a Governor, please contact me via the school office.

Secondly, we look to performance, the school has had a brilliant year which began with a successful Ofsted in February, retaining our judgement as a **GOOD** school (you can find a link to the report on our website). Governors are particularly proud that Ofsted recognised Elm Park's family ethos stating

*'.....is all about kindness. Pupils experience kindness and respect from staff and each other each day. Pupils appreciate how safe and secure they feel at school, and how much they enjoy their learning. A tangible family ethos ripples through the life of the school. Each day starts with a warm welcome and kind words.'*

Whilst acknowledging our family ethos Ofsted does identify strengths in the academic curriculum stating

*'.....the school ensures that pupils benefit from a wide, rich range of extra activities, trips and experiences. These supplement pupils' learning well, developing their characters, and supporting pupils to be well prepared for their next steps...'*

Ofsted is only one of the many successes of the year, others include:  
Sandra Allen – Chair of Governors July 2025

- ✓ Accelerated improvements in children reaching expected standards in phonics in Year 1
- ✓ More children in EYFS reaching expected standards in Reading
- ✓ Meeting Local and National benchmarks for the number of children meeting expectations in EYFS, Phonics and Key Stage 2 Maths and Grammar, Punctuation and Spellings.
- ✓ More families are choosing Elm Park for their children's education, and we continue to have a full intake for September 2025.

Thank you to all our staff and children for working so hard to deliver these results, whilst ensuring Elm Park retains its happy, calm, caring environment.

Thirdly, we mustn't forget our wonderful, tireless PTFA who through all their hard work organising events such as quiz nights, children's disco, pamper evening, Frome Valley 10k etc have raised valuable funds for the school. With a declining government funding to schools this extra money helps to provide tools and materials which the school needs to deliver the best possible education for your children. So please do continue to support the Friends and get involved as much as you can, they will be always grateful for any extra help.

Looking forward to the next academic year in September, the areas the school and Governors will be focussing on include:

- ✓ Continuing to embed our Read, Write, Inc programme to continue raising the standard of early reading
- ✓ Continuing to raise writing standards across the school
- ✓ To improve handwriting, particularly letter formation
- ✓ Continue to improve attendance across the school community

The way in which the Governing Body supports the school in achieving its goals is multi-facet. Governors visit the school to see in action the priorities on the action plan, speak to staff and children, attending school events where possible and Governor meetings. Our meetings are a mixture of face to face and virtual meetings via Microsoft Teams to ensure a work-life balance for staff and Governors. Our Full Governor meetings are held 6 times a year in school, our Finance & Premises committee 3 times a year, Staffing and Learning & Standards committees met twice a year. We aim to support, challenge and make suggestions when appropriate. The Governor page on the school website provides a list of governors and the register.

It has been a privilege to be Chair of Governors for the last 8 years and I would like to thank you again as parents/carers for your continued support and my fellow Governors, who as volunteers, give their time and dedication so freely. I hope you find this report interesting and informative. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Finally, I would like to wish all our Year 6 children the best of luck in continuing their learning journey and all of you a well-deserved summer break. I look forward to seeing what we can all achieve together in coming academic year.

Yours faithfully,

**Sandra Allen**  
**Elm Park Primary School Chair of Governors**