



GOVERNORS' REPORT 2020-21

This has been a year like no other. With society trying to come to terms with Covid 19 and schools playing an important part in keeping life as normal as possible for children, while all around was under constant change.

Twineham has been very fortunate to have had Mr Reece as Head to guide the school through these extremely challenging times. Over the first lockdown, lessons were learnt and experiences built upon and the online Seesaw platform was used to support wonderful home learning moving into the spring term.

Normality resumed in March and the Head and staff got to grips with an ever-changing set of guidance, standing steadfast to provide children with as wide an educational experience as possible, given the restrictions. Mr Reece and his team have been outstanding in supporting the children and school community over this last academic year, and our thanks go to them for all their efforts to put the children first.

In these difficult times, the focus has not only been on education, but health and wellbeing as a more rounded package and this has been reflected on our school development plan. The Head has been instrumental in focusing on any vulnerabilities and providing the appropriate support where necessary.

In terms of governance, we were also presented with challenges not encountered previously. All our Full Governing Board meetings and committee meetings were on zoom, as well as external link advisor meetings and all WSCC training courses were conducted virtually.

This was a new and completely different world from the one we normally inhabited, however, we would like to reassure you that in many areas it was equally or more efficient. While some areas of monitoring were not possible, as DfE guidelines meant we were not permitted into school, we felt our level of rigour and challenge were no less than we would expect, had we met face to face. In many ways, it gave us opportunities to build upon our work and take things forward in a positive manner. The School Development Plan continued to be presented and debated amongst the governing body and head teacher, with notable focus on children's mental, physical and emotional wellbeing at the core. Equality and diversity is also intertwined into every policy with new measures to ensure the children understand its foundations and importance in our society as a whole.

Active and outdoor learning has taken centre stage at Twineham. Not only has this allowed for a COVID safe learning environment, but also allowed the children to experience learning in the beautiful and rural setting the school sits in.

The effort and spirit that was shown by the children, parents and families throughout 2020 and 2021 was extraordinary, and testament to the resilience of our school community. It goes without saying that home schooling proved to be a challenge for many, and not without very good reason. The adoption of Seesaw, allowed work to be set and shared amongst year groups, giving an element of structure, but nothing compares to the classroom environment. As governors we appreciate the efforts put in, and relish normality, whatever that may look like.

We look forward to the forthcoming academic year with hope, and the knowledge that the school can still deliver high quality education by a variety of different methods when required.

It just remains for us to thank Mr Reece and his fantastic team for their hard work, dedication and commitment, to giving your children the best possible start, while embodying the school values of nurture, togetherness, resilience and creativity, where "every child is a gift and every child is gifted."

*Margaret Smith (Chair of Governors)
and Crispin Sykes (Vice Chair of Governors),
August 2021*