



Governors are responsible for setting the school's vision and strategic direction, for holding the Headteacher and Senior Leadership team to account for educational performance, and for ensuring the School's money is spent well.

Reflecting on a Positive Year for Our School

As we come to the end of another successful school year, we would like to warmly congratulate Mrs Deaves and all the staff who have worked so hard to make it such a positive one. Taking on the leadership of a school soon after the retirement of a much-loved headteacher is a significant challenge, but Mrs Deaves has embraced it with energy, warmth and good humour. She has quickly become part of school life, bringing colour and positivity not only through her distinctive dresses, but through the thoughtful and encouraging way she leads. Within just a few weeks of her arrival, Ofsted made the call we had all been expecting, and the school became one of the first to be inspected under the new framework. Any Ofsted inspection brings pressure, and this was especially so for a new headteacher still getting to know the school in depth, and staff getting to know their new headteacher! Governors were therefore absolutely delighted, though not at all surprised, that the school received such positive feedback and a clean bill of health.

Governor focus for 2026/2027

A key part of governors' oversight is regular monitoring, which helps provide assurance that the school is being well led and managed. Our monitoring programme for the next school year will focus on behaviour, leadership, SEN, enrichment, curriculum and assessment, alongside routine monitoring of safeguarding, nursery provision, the school website and online safety. To support this work, governors form working parties to plan the most effective approach. This may include meeting subject leaders, speaking with pupils about their experiences, reviewing pupils' work, and considering the impact of key strategies and initiatives.

The Governing Board for 2026/2027

This will be my final newsletter as Chair of Governors, as my term comes to an end and I say goodbye to the school. It has been a real honour and privilege to serve as a governor for the past eight and a half years, including seven and a half years as Chair. Hadleigh Community Primary School will always hold a special place in my heart, both as a former pupil myself and as a parent of two children who have benefited from the wonderful education and experiences the school provides. Saying goodbye is bittersweet: I will miss being part of this community, but I leave feeling incredibly proud of the school, its leadership, the amazing staff and volunteers, the governing board and everything the school continues to achieve.

I am delighted to hand over the reins to **James Baalham** as Chair and **Sheena Broadbent** (yes – the one and only!) as Vice Chair. They are both incredibly capable, and we have been working together since Easter to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition. And I will forever be watching and cheering the school on from the sidelines...

Mandy Gowers