

Stockham Primary School



**‘Take pride in knowing that your struggle will
play the biggest role in your purpose’**

Marcus Rashford

Governing Body

Annual Summary to Parents

2020-2021

Summary on behalf of the Governors

What another extraordinary year it has been! This time last year, we were preparing to return to the new academic year in a very different way – one that many of us with older children at Stockham Primary School are unfamiliar with – bubble operations and an environment much less full of cross-school activities that brings a special buzz around Stockham. Nevertheless, all the staff, including caretakers, kitchen staff, office staff, Teaching Assistants, Teachers and the Headteacher have soldiered on and made the best of the rather difficult situation we are still enduring.

On behalf of the Governing body, we would like to say a big, big thank you to all staff at Stockham School for persevering throughout this year and for doing an exceptional job in keeping all staff and pupils safe during the year. It has been a less than ideal scenario for all staff and pupils to operate in at the school with these restrictions. However, with the second National Lockdown that followed Christmas break and forced our children back into home schooling, it is fair to say that the majority of children returned to school with much resilience and enthusiasm despite these continued restrictions. This reminds us of the positive impact and benefits that being taught in school with the peer-peer interactions and the opportunity to play together have on the development and learning of our children.

Governance also took a very different stance this year with less emphasis on the regular matters that we are expected to support and challenge around the school. With there being much less opportunity to be within school for routine Governor duties, it has been difficult for us to feel part of Stockham community in the usual way. Instead, remotely during our Governing body meetings, as guided by numerous bodies that support Governance in schools and Oxfordshire County Council, we were largely focussed on:

- Ensuring Government recommendations of safely operating within the school was met
- Pupils' learning was minimally disrupted during this academic year with contingency planning and provision of the necessary materials and resources for all families throughout absences or during lockdown
- Recovery curriculum money allocated to schools was effectively spent to help recover time lost in learning since the first lockdown
- Keeping the school operational for children of essential workers and vulnerable learners
- Consideration and attention to pastoral care of pupils and staff, which at the outset of the academic was a hugely important focus in the aftermath of both lockdowns for Governors

this academic year – particularly for the tireless roles that many Senior Leaders and Headteachers had throughout the summer of last year preparing for the different operations

As a result, there are no data to report this year, but some major successes to be championed by Stockham at least! Fortunately, there have not been any bubble closures required (long may this run!) with an impeccable attendance record around 97% across the school, and despite the National lockdowns, many pupils have made good progress in their learning and achievements during the year. Furthermore, in spite of the short notice of the second lockdown, the response of the school to online learning meant that children were able access learning virtually and stay in contact with their friends - possibly the most significant factor for them throughout this period. Well done to all staff, pupils and parents that grappled with the technology in ways very unfamiliar to us this past year! Of course, much of the operations also increased administrative duties in and around the school and staff can only be praised for all of their hard work throughout this year towards keeping on top of it all alongside the excellent teaching and the opportunity to learn within their classrooms. The importance of learning outside the classroom was also realised during final term where many of the school trips and extra-curricular activities were able to take place. The buzz around Stockham has definitely reappeared as we wind-down to the end of term.

Governors also devised the Parent Survey this year and we had 95 responses – around 50% of parents when accounting for responses for multiple children. A big thank you to all of those parents who participated as your feedback is invaluable to the school. Many of the outcomes were positive and constructive for the Senior Leadership Team and the Headteacher respond to such as:

- Staggering the Foundation and KS1 drop-off and pick up times
- Wearing face masks around the playground to reduce anxiety due to COVID

Many of you found your child/ren happy being back at school and agreed that the school had put in place the appropriate levels of safety and that changes in operation were effectively communicated in a timely manner. Governors also paid some specific attention to the wellbeing of the staff at Stockham this year, which have persistently continued to work throughout these extenuating circumstances. A new Mental Wellbeing Committee led by Ellie Hallams was formed with the aim of promoting and improving wellbeing throughout the school. I would like to thank all Governing body members for their commitment and contributions to the board this year – it was difficult and unlike any other year of Governance so many thanks for your time and investment into the school around what turned out to be a hectic year!

Other successes around the school include some of the fundraising efforts by the FOS in spite of all of the disruptions from the tea towel sales, Halloween trail, clothing collections and raising over £3000.00 for the KS2 equipment when Stockham virtually walked around the world in 80 days – such a feat and thank you for being so imaginative in your endeavours to raise additional funds for the school!

The picture on the front of this years' summary is of Monarch butterflies in flight for their incredible journey from northern USA and Canada heading south to the mountains of central Mexico, which I think sums up the journey of this year at Stockham – an epic and challenging year to endure! Butterflies are also a symbol of hope and transformation with the beautiful metamorphosis it undergoes from eggs, larva, chrysalis and finally emerging into a butterfly. Here is hoping that going into the summer break that everyone manages to stay safe and well throughout and return refreshed in September to a more familiar operating Stockham school.

Governors at Stockham Primary School

Changes to the Governing board at Stockham Primary School

On the note of change, the dynamics of the board has seen some strong new members join the board as well as leave this year. Parent elections were held in the autumn and we welcomed both Bec Sheather and Dennis Burson to the Governing board as Parent Governors. Tyrone Rees was also appointed to the board as a Co-opted Governor to complement a gap in the skillsets on the board. Fiona Henderson also approached us to join the Governing board who is Director of Education (Primary) for the River Learning Trust - a Multi-Academy Trust containing mainly Oxford City and West Oxfordshire schools. Fiona initially joined the board as an Associate Governor. However, Flo Stoermer resigned from the board in the spring and Fiona has since been elected into a Co-opted role on the board. We wish to thank Flo for his time given to the school on the board. Joe Burbank's term of office as staff governor, came to an end in December and our new Staff Governor representative is Jess Wylde – welcome to the board Jess! We would like to thank Joe Burbank for his dedication and hard work on the Governing board at Stockham for the past 12 years. Our Local Authority Governor representative Jenny Hannaby, whom you may know as Councillor Jenny Hannaby of the Liberal Democrat party for Wantage and Grove, is also leaving us this term. She has been on the board for around 25 years and has been an invaluable asset over these years. She has promised to still keep a look out for opportunities that may be of interest to Stockham. We would like to say farewell and thank you so much for the time you have invested into the board – you will be missed and hopefully

we will see you around. Finally, I have also stepped down from the board as Chair this term to focus on writing up my own research and will be handing the baton to Jo Wilkinson who was elected through the Governing board to become next years' Chair. I will be staying on the board as a Co-opted Governor to support Jo in the transition to Chair, which I am sure she will grasp in no time. Most of you may know Jo as Treasurer of the FOS and will be familiar with her energy and enthusiasm. She already has lots of exciting plans in store to reset the structure of the Governing board. Good luck Jo! Next years' Governing body will comprise of:

Governing body member	Governor role/type
Ruth Burbank	Headteacher
Jo Wilkinson	Chair/Parent
Hattie Clay	OCC Clerk
Jan Butler	Parent
Dennis Burson	Parent
Bec Sheather	Parent
Duncan Francis	Co-opted
Ellen Hallams	Co-opted
Tyrone Rees	Co-opted
Heena Brown	Co-opted
Sarah Anderson	Co-opted
Fiona Henderson	Co-opted
Jess Wylde	Staff
Sue Randall	Bursar

Moving into next year, the Big Friendly Governors (BFGs), following a specific year group throughout their journey at Stockham school will be:

Big Friendly Governors	Year
Tyrone Rees	Foundation
Ellen Hallams	1
Dennis Burson	2
Duncan Francis	3
Jan Butler	4
Bec Sheather	5
Jo Wilkinson	6

New Chair - Jo Wilkinson

Hello everybody, I am delighted to become Chair of Governors in the coming year and am looking forward to working with Mrs Burbank and the rest of the leadership team and staff at school as we look to the future. I joined the Governing body in 2017 and, having a background in data analysis as a research scientist, took on the role of Chair of the Assessment of Quality of Teaching subcommittee. I became Vice Chair alongside Heena in 2019; supporting the school through the two Ofsted inspections in as many years will be my proudest, if not most stressful, memory as a governor to date! My current career as Head of Compliance for a leading healthcare communications company provides me with insights into the ever-changing legal landscape which schools are facing, which I use to support the school. Outside of work (and school), I am a qualified dance teacher and regularly choreograph musical theatre productions for amateur companies in Oxfordshire and I am trustee of 'Blue Skye Thinking' a local charity which raises much needed funds for paediatric brain tumour research.

A few years ago, Stockham School introduced 'Soaring High' as out school ethos with the intent to encourage all members of the school community to be the best they can. As many of you will know, this resulted in the school achieving the very well-deserved Outstanding rating from Ofsted in 2019. Since then we have largely been thrown at the mercy of COVID, and I would like to add my own thanks to all of the children, parents and staff for the herculean efforts and support over the last 18 months. As we emerge from the most bizarre 2 years, it is important that as a school we continue to look forward and see where we go next as we strive to provide the very best for our pupils. Over the next year, we will be looking at that journey and determining our vision for the school over the next 5 years, so that we can continue soaring higher and higher.

I look forward to working with you all on this next exciting stage of our school journey.



Jo Wilkinson, incoming Chair of Governors