



Baines Endowed VC School Governors' Newsletter to Parents End Summer Term 2021

We are a friendly, safe, caring community in which everyone can be happy and confident and where children can reach their full potential.

Dear Parents

As the 2020/21 School year comes to an end it is customary that the Governing Body sends this newsletter to parents – and a truly extraordinary year it has been in the world, Britain and for our School family.

We completely acknowledge that lockdowns will have been hard on everyone and the impact that this has had on parents and our children and on our school staff. Over the course of the year we appreciate parents will have juggled busy lives, jobs or businesses, managed home schooling and wider caring responsibilities and we understand that can't have been easy. We pass on our thanks to those of you, who as keyworkers, have been on the front-line in supporting the country through this pandemic.

As a School we have implemented Government policy around lockdowns and wider safety measures and then, at times, had to implement our own School decisions based on sometimes confusing messages. However, we are very proud of our approach on COVID security and keeping everyone safe: while we have had a few bubbles unfortunately succumb, Mrs Finney and the team have worked hard to ensure the safety of everyone in school, which had to be paramount. Through this, we're sure that we have enabled learning to continue as much as we could, which for us, after ensuring a *safety-first* approach, was a clear mission. We'll also mention how proud we are of how the children have coped through the most difficult of year's and we hope that you can appreciate this as "a good outcome" under the circumstances.

Let's look forward to the summer break, some nice weather and hope that the Government's approach on managing the pandemic is right.

Everyone involved with Baines' can be justly proud of our school's reputation in the community. On behalf of my fellow Governors, thank you to all the staff for your efforts over the last year. We wish you all a wonderful summer break— we look forward to seeing you again in September.

Regards from all of us

Ian Fogg

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body

To our Year 6 leavers – Goodbye and you go with our very best wishes.....

Good luck to all our fantastic Year 6 children as you leave Baines ... we send all of you with our very warmest wishes as you embark on the next stage of your Education.

It's recognised that this has not been the way you, or we, would have wanted in terms of the children leaving and missing out on some things that Year 6 children have done in the past and that's regrettable. However, we hope that you have enjoyed your overall time at Baines and the end of term events put on over the last few weeks by Mrs Hedges, including the recent Year 6 Residential.

The Governing Body sincerely hopes that our children have thoroughly enjoyed their time at Baines Endowed and that you, as parents, have been delighted with their education as well as their social and emotional development over their time with us. Good Luck at High School children and we hope you have very special and fond memories of your time at Baines.

Thanks to our supporters

The Governing Body expresses its thanks to our Friends of Baines. Ordinarily we'd thank here the community of parent / grandparent helpers but without school visitors this has not been in place this last year, however we look forward to working with you again next year as, hopefully, the effects of the vaccine help the country back to a "new normal".

The Governing Body expresses its thanks for the Trust's support in the last academic year. The Baines Trust still looks after the legacy from James Baines who died in 1717 after whom our school is named. Given the challenges around School funding, we at Baines are so grateful for their ongoing support on a number of initiatives over the past year.

Our School Governing Body

The School Governing Body is responsible for making sure that policies and objectives are being met, setting and agreeing budgets and supporting the Leadership Team in making appointments. We oversee the work of the school and have the general responsibility for the conduct of Baines with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. Many of the requirements and responsibilities placed on governing bodies are covered by legislation and well defined by guidance and recommended policies and procedures. However this last couple of years has drawn on experience and commitment, probably like few others, navigating a national pandemic.

Our governing body is made up of the following people, who, as volunteers support our school.

The Baines Endowed Governing Body is:-

Chair – Ian Fogg	Vice Chair – Matt Williams	Mrs Finney	Leanne Kay
Rev Jane Atkinson	Alison Gorrie	Amy Doughty	Kathy Hardy
Marie Halsall	Jenny Green	Chris Nicholls	Thomas Farquhar
Jenny Slater	Mr Jurczak (*)		

(*) Stepping down as he leaves and good luck in the new role Tom, thanks for your help and support!

Important note from the Governing Body- REMINDER

All Baines staff work hard to do a professional job in these most difficult times and the Governing Body has a duty of care to look after all the team.

We've been made aware of examples of interactions with staff, and of social media content or other school/ parental contact systems (eg Dojo) that from time-to-time becomes personal or is of an inappropriate or offensive tone - this is not acceptable.

Everyone at Baines Endowed understands our high professional standards and the professional "world" in which they work : they strive to maintain these high standards and work to do their very best for all our children.

We therefore feel we need to remind parents that interactions with staff to consider the tone and way they speak to staff or content posted on line; this must be respectful and courteous at all times and not cause offence. Systems are in place to appropriately raise concerns via your child's class teacher, before escalation to Mrs Finney.

The whole team works to ensure children are polite and kind to one another in both their words and actions. We also ask the same of parents please in terms of the content on social media and in interactions with school staff.

Thanks all for your understanding.

Intervention and support groups

Baines' works hard within the resources we have available and ensure that as a school, we offer the best support for all the children within our care. We are very aware of the impact on learning and children's development over the last 18 months or so, and are putting in place targeted support where we can. This will help children catch up to where they would have been had we not had the terrible experience of the pandemic. Such interventions will include supporting reading, spelling groups, phonics groups, speech development and other initiatives run by teaching and teaching assistant staff. This is of real importance to us and is very close to Mrs Finney and the Governing Body's heart. It's likely that additional guidance will come from County/ central Government on this as well as schools look to catch back the lost learning time.

And finally, to all the staff team at Baines Endowed....

Another incredible year for everyone. Thank you to everyone for your hard work, commitment and dedication to get the best outcomes for our children. We really do appreciate your professionalism and how hard the team works to deliver the best schooling for all of our children. The whole Governing Body massively appreciates your commitment, resilience and dedication you give to Baines and our fabulous children.

Finally, to Mrs Finney at the end of a tough school year... thanks for your hard work, care and concern for the whole staff team looking after them through this toughest of years and in getting us through and navigating the guidance on COVID, so well!

Lastly, just to wish all the school team a restful and relaxing summer and we all look forward to working with you from September!