

Bishop Road Primary School

Bishop Road, Bristol BS7 8LS



Head Teacher: Joe Emissah

Deputy Head Teacher: Alex Edwards

Friday 21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head towards the end of 2025, we wish a farewell to Lorraine Woodward who has served as Chair of Governors for many years. Lorraine joined the Governing Body some 12 years ago and has made a considerable contribution to Bishop Road, first as governor and more recently for many years as Chair.

The role of governors is important and valued in providing strategic direction and challenge to the Head Teacher and Senior Team and we thank Lorraine for her dedication and energy invested in the success of the school. Her desire to see children develop and achieve the very best, and her enthusiasm and dedication to work with others to make this happen, have been a great benefit to the pupils of Bishop Road.

Sally Lucas, has been appointed as the new Chair and, as a longstanding governor and former parent, she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge both of the unique ethos of our school, but also the complexities and challenges of the current climate.

We look forward to working closely with Sally to ensure the continued success of the school.

Please find attached a letter from Lorraine Woodward.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Emissah
Head Teacher



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Being a part of Bishop Road these last 12 years has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and, as vacancies arise, I recommend it to anyone looking to support the senior leaders with its continued success. Whilst much focus is often (and rightly) placed on the importance of governors testing and challenging their school, it is also about giving communities the opportunity to provide support and share accountability for the difficulties all public services currently face.

The privilege of being a governor is that we can observe the school behind the scenes, beyond the snap shots at pick up and drop off and, of course, the scraps of information our children choose to share! With this insight, I can say, as both a parent and a governor and with complete honesty, that Bishop Road really is a special place with staff who are committed to giving your child not only an outstanding education but also a fantastic life experience. For the duration of my time at Bishop Road, I have observed a relentless but enthusiastic cycle of self-improvement, analysis, and review. Even when things are going well, and you think they might pause for breath, they find something that they think they can do better. Then the whole staff, not just senior leaders, work together to design and implement change. This change is carefully planned, led by highly trained professionals, and informed by the needs of all the children.

I have worked in public services for most of my career and I am amazed by what primary schools achieve and how much value they deliver from very tight and increasingly stretched budgets. The school, its senior leaders and all the staff should be commended for that, and, where appropriate and possible, I urge you to do so. In a society with an increasingly negative narrative about public services, I really do think that is important.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to say one final thank you to Mr Emissah and all of the Bishop Road staff, to the fantastic PTFA and to the wonderful children, parents and carers that make our community so special.



I also want to extend my thanks and gratitude to all the remaining governors, in particular Sally Lucas, the new Chair of Governors. All governors are volunteers and it is a big commitment in the context of increasingly busy professional and personally lives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L Woodward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lorraine Woodward