



GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new newsletter. Every half-term we will update you on our focus areas within the school so you are fully informed about our work.

It has been great to see things getting back to normal in the school after the long years of Covid shutdowns and we are now able to work much more closely with the school through school visits, meeting key members of staff to discuss specific curriculum areas and also by carrying out learning walks.

Our current focus is ensuring that we, as a governing body, are fully informed about what is happening in school and the positive impact this is having on the children's education.

As this is the first newsletter we thought we would start by introducing ourselves and explaining a little bit about our individual areas of responsibility on the governing body.

We hope that you find these newsletters useful,

I can, you can, we can.

Your governing body





GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Abigail Moss Chair of Governing Body – Co-opted



I have been proud to be a governor at Underhill School and Children's Centre for the past three years. My two children both attend the school and I am proud to be involved in our community. I am delighted and honoured to be able to continue to serve the school as Chair of Governors.

This year, my focus in school is to work with Jennie and Nicola to continue to support them and our school and work ever closer with the Goldstar Federation. I am delighted that their hard work and passion, and that of our phenomenal staff has been so favourably recognised by the Local Authority in their most recent review. I am in school weekly looking at our strategic goals.

Gareth Caller: Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Finance Committee

I am a chartered accountant, who is passionate about using his skills and experience to support schools to deliver high quality education to all children, irrespective of background.

In my day job I am a civil servant, who leads the finance business partner team responsible for housing and building safety.

This year my focus is on working with the school to put systems and processes in place to make financial management as painless as possible so that Jennie, Nicola and their fantastic team can focus on providing the highest quality education to your children.





GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Sarah Westcott – Co-opted Governor



I am pleased and excited to have been co-opted onto the Governing body this academic year. I am an Assistant Head and Chemistry teacher at a local secondary school and look forward to supporting Jennie and Nicola as they work to ensure all Underhill children can reach their potential.

My focus so far in school has been to work with the science lead to support and develop the already impressive science learning provision, which I have had the pleasure of witnessing in my visits to the school.

Hitesh Patel – Parent Governor – Co-opted Governor

I have been fortunate enough to be a parent governor at Underhill School for the past two years. My son has been attending Underhill school since 2018 and being a governor at the school allows me the opportunity to give back to the school and the community.

I have been working with the Maths and Computing leaders this year. Understanding the subjects, contents and methodologies used to teach children in the different key stages. The hard work carried out by all the teaching staff can be seen reflected in the achievements the students are making.

I look forward in providing support to the school and staff by having the opportunity to continue working as governor.





GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Rachel Shear - Co-opted Governor

Hi, I'm Rachel and I have recently (this academic year) joined the governing body of Underhill.

I am one of the Co-Headteachers at The Orion Primary School where I have worked for 20 years.

I hope very much to be able to support Jennie and Nicola in their aims and commitment to ensure that Underhill provides a high quality and happy education to its pupils. I believe very strongly that schools should be amazing places of learning and nurture and pride for children and staff.



Karen Johnson – Parent Governor



Hi, I'm Karen and I was very proud to be elected parent governor at the end of 2019. My Year 3 son loves his school (especially doing the trim trail with his friends and the macaroni cheese!) and my daughter is living her best life dancing her way through Underhill's nursery.

It's been really frustrating supporting the school from a distance over the past two years, but now I love coming into school to meet the Heads and all the brilliant staff, and see the children so engaged in their learning. As SEN-link Governor, I am so excited by the incredible facilities for pupils with special educational needs and as early years governor, I appreciate the collaborative approach - really engaging with parents first-hand.

Underhill is a very special community school, and I am privileged to be a part of its governing body.





GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Stephen Rigley – Parent Governor



My name is Stephen Rigley and am very proud to be a governor at the school my six-year-old son attends having been co-opted in 2019.

By trade I am a journalist with more than two decades experience in newspapers, digital and broadcasting and am thrilled to be able to use this experience to help the school with English.

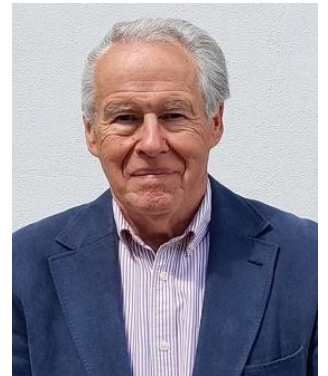
Councillor Tim Roberts - Governor

I have been a governor at Underhill School for over 12 years, serving first as a governor to Underhill Infants then when elected as a Labour councillor for Underhill Ward in 2014 as the Local Authority Governor to the School.

My specific governor focus is the school's excellent Children's Centre. In addition to attending full governors meetings I endeavour to attend a range of other meetings and events at the school. Of course, personal attendance for all governors has been considerably hampered by the Covid restrictions, which is a great shame, as meeting the staff and the pupils of Underhill School is always a great privilege.

As a local councillor I have one driving ambition and that is to listen to and look after the residents of Underhill. Underhill is very fortunate in being sited both close to the high street of Barnet, but also situated along the delightful Dollis Valley and Dollis Brook. We can enjoy the benefits of being part of an important London suburb, but also enjoying the green and healthy location of the Dollis Valley Green Walk.

As we all know, Underhill is a very diverse community and Underhill has always provided first class education to a large number of children for whom English is not their first language. From the very first sessions carried out by the Children's Centre to Year Six children successfully moving on to secondary education, Underhill School has always provided a caring yet ambitious education for all children. Being a local authority governor at Underhill has always been a privilege for me as the school lies at the heart of my Underhill Ward. I look forward to the school progressing strongly and achieving everything that its pupils, staff, leadership and governors aspire to.





GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

Rebecca Carruthers – Staff Governor

My name is Rebecca Carruthers and I am the Learning Mentor at Underhill School and the Staff Governor. I'm also an Underhill parent, with my youngest about to finish his time at the school and move into Year 7.

The Underhill community has been part of my life for seven years and I feel enormously privileged to represent the staff on the governing body and make sure that the incredible people who work at Underhill have their voice heard.

Having seen the school go through many changes, I am looking forward to what is next for Underhill School as it goes from strength to strength.



Kerri-Anne Wakefield – Parent Governor



I have been a parent governor for a number of years, and have served as Chairwoman until 2019.

I am honoured and proud to part of Underhill school and children's centre governing body and helping support the school and it's community. I went to Underhill School myself, and feel that it is a very special school to be part of.

We look forward to seeing you in school and updating you with what we have
focused on next half term!

