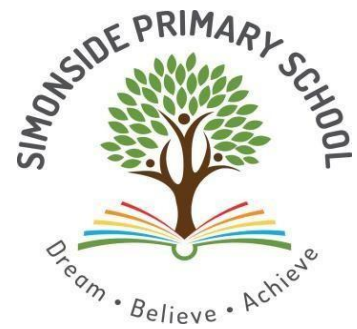


Simonside Primary School

Governor Newsletter Summer Term 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the summer Governor newsletter!

This has been a challenging year and not quite the year we had planned. The news about Mrs. Hills came as a huge shock to everyone, especially to her friends and colleagues on the staff. We wish her well in her recovery and are looking forward to her return as soon as she is well. We are so grateful to all the staff for 'stepping up' and keeping everything on track. Thank you also to all the parents and carers who have continued to support their children and the school. We are very grateful for all your help and support.

We are looking forward to Mrs. Brown continuing in her new role as Executive Head, working alongside Mrs. Carter as Head of School. They have already been working together and have lots of plans for the new school year.

A message from Mrs. Hills

Dear all,

This year, 2025-2026, has certainly been a memorable start to headship!

My life has changed significantly since the cancer diagnosis back in March. The treatment is a tough challenge but I'm over halfway through and I can see light at the end of the tunnel. I've got some more chemotherapy, then surgery, radiotherapy... and then I'll be back!

I miss everyone so very much. Simonside is part of who I am and it's the thought of going back to the job I love that is helping me to keep going.

I'm so grateful to all the staff and governors for working so incredibly hard to keep the flag flying for the school in my absence. I know they share my passion for providing the very best for your wonderful, precious children.

I hope you all have a relaxing holiday when it comes. Know that I am thinking of you all every single day.

With love and best wishes, Mrs Hills xx

Here is a snapshot of the work governors have been doing in and around school throughout the summer term.

Governor visits in school

Mrs. Rae makes regular visits each term in her roles as Safeguarding Link and EYFS Link Governor. Visits include checking that all policies and procedures are in place to keep everyone safe. She had the opportunity to look at how staff and children are working hard on their writing and to talk to children about their work. These visits are always extremely positive and it's lovely to see the children's work and to see how positive they are about their learning. The children are a credit to their families and to school!

A small group of governors met with Mrs Alderson, SENDCo in June to look at how school supports children who may have social, emotional and mental health needs. We were very impressed at how effective the different types of support within and beyond the classroom are and also found out how other agencies are working to support school in meeting the needs of children from Nursery to Year 6.

Policies

As well as governor visits, governors meet to discuss and approve the policies which school is expected to have in place. These cover a range of subjects including attendance, school uniform, supporting children with medical needs and behaviour. Our parent governor, Mrs Kelly, joined two other parents to discuss the updated RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) curriculum with Mrs Watson our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) lead. They discussed the terminology that will be used with the children and looked at how the curriculum will be rolled out to each class. Parents and carers can access school and ONE Trust policies via Simonside's website.

Head Teacher's Report

Each term, the headteachers of all the schools in the ONE Trust write a report for their governors. The final one of the year was presented for discussion at Simonside's meeting on 30 June. The report gives governors a clear and updated picture of how the school is performing, where the pressures are and what the priorities are moving forward. It helps governors make informed decisions and offer the right balance of support and challenge.

At this final meeting, we looked closely at this year's school data, including attendance and how children did in assessment. Governors can raise questions or explore any areas they want to understand more deeply e.g. how staff manage behaviour in class or feedback from pupils voice sessions. Our latest pupil voice session focussed on emotional wellbeing and how safe children feel in school. The headteacher's report also allows us to compare our data against national figures, helping us to recognise strengths, celebrate what has gone well while also identifying areas where further improvement would make a real difference.

Ofsted

Simonside was last inspected in spring 2020 so we are currently within our Ofsted 'window'. We are extremely proud of our school, our children and our team and look forward to showcasing the fantastic work that goes on every single day.

It's been another fantastic year at Simonside. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to ensure that our children receive the very best each and every day in a safe, exciting and supportive learning environment. As governors, we are proud of all that has been achieved and look forward to support the school's ongoing success when we return in September. Have a lovely summer!

Mrs L. Rae Chair	Mrs E. Hills Head teacher	Mrs. J. Brown Executive Head Mrs. V. Carter Head of School
Mr M. Harbottle Parent governor/ Vice Chair	Mrs J. Kelly Parent Governor	Mr C. Stott Co-opted Governor
Mrs V. Armstrong Co-opted Governor	Mrs A. Thomas Non-teaching Staff Governor	Mrs S. Betts Teaching Staff Governor