Dear Parents and Carers,

Well I can’t believe half term is almost upon us, I hope everyone has settled well into their new school and classes. I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome everyone on behalf of the board of Governors, and introduce ourselves and what we do.

The current board is:

Clare Harley (Co-Chair)

Claire Walsh (Co-Chair)

Robert Court (Vice-Chair)

Oona Gilbertson (Headteacher)

Jayne Pritzlaff

Rona Cole

Ruth Nuttall

Roslind Buckingham

Kay Mason

Hannah McGuire

Rebecca Perring

Pauline Hutson

Edward Mackay

Pippa Lord

Paul Wiles

The board is made up of school staff, parents, representatives from the Church, and members of the local community.

The strategic functions of the governing body are:

* Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
* Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
* Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

Each individual governor has a responsibility, working alongside other members of the governing body, to the staff and pupils of the school and the school's wider community. Together with the headteacher, our responsibilities include:

* developing the school's strategic plan
* determining aims, policies and priorities
* setting targets
* monitoring and evaluating
* deciding the number of staff
* overseeing the use of the school's budget
* securing high levels of attendance and good standards of pupil behaviour

We carry out these functions by a combination of whole governing body meetings, sub-committee meetings, data examination, meeting with staff and pupils, parent surveys, examining children’s workbooks, observations in school, and reviewing budgets. The whole board meets five times throughout the school year, with sub-committees meeting in addition to this. Everything we do refers back to the School Improvement Plan, which details the specific target areas for the school year.

Governors provide the headteacher with support and advice, drawing on their knowledge and experience to ask searching questions, and respect the headteacher's position as the professional leader of the school.

Everyone at Eyam School is committed to the well-being of every pupil, and all the governors are approachable and happy to talk and listen, as are the teaching and support staff at school. If you would like to contact the governors formally, this can be done by contacting the school office.

Best wishes for a good half term break!

Clare Harley