



# Duke of Norfolk CE Primary School

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*From tiny acorns, great forests grow*

Thursday 27 March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **New Starts**

Late last school year, I was appointed as Chair of Governors. First, I would like to thank my predecessor, Tom Plant, for all of his hard work in the role over the last few years. Secondly, as the new Chair, this is my first opportunity to welcome everyone to a new school year at Dukes.

On behalf of the whole Governing Body, I would therefore like to welcome you to our school. We pride ourselves on our friendly, inclusive and supportive school community: "the Dukes family". Whether your child is venturing their first brave steps into nursery or reception, preparing for their SATs in Year 6 or anything in between, you and they are valued members of the Dukes family. As the School motto says: from tiny acorns, great forest grow!

I would also like to welcome back our staff. Mrs Barker and her senior leadership team have just completed their first year in their roles. They are supported by our wonderful teachers and staff. They are working hard every day to make Dukes the best possible place for our children. I am into my fifth year as a Dukes parent and can attest to the improvement that they continue to achieve.

## **What do we do?**

Our governors are volunteers drawn from a diverse range of backgrounds: parents, teachers, the Church and the local community. We are dedicated to ensuring the highest standard of safety, welfare and education for all of the children at Dukes. All of our governors aim to be visible and approachable. I am always happy to speak with any parent, carer or visitor about any topic and I welcome feedback. Feel free to email me, leave a message at reception or approach me on the playground before or after school. Photos of me and all of the other governors are on the school website – we should be easy to locate!

## What can you do?

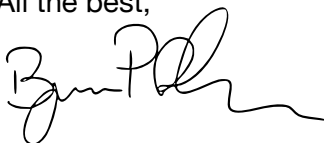
The Dukes Family is as strong as it is because parents, carers, families and staff are prepared to give up their time to make our school better. The governors are extremely grateful for everyone who contributes. This new school year, please take a moment to think about what you can do. To misquote someone: ask not what Dukes can do for you—ask what you can do for Dukes?

To make it easier for you, here are five simple things that you can do to help:

1. **Check your Pupil Premium.** We think that parents and the school miss out on thousands of pounds every year because parents don't realise that they might be entitled to Pupil Premium funding – you might be surprised! Budgets are tight for families and for schools, so please do your bit by filling out the form: <https://tinyurl.com/DukesPP>.
2. **Support the PTA.** We have a fantastic PTA whose hard work has delivered new playground equipment and computers for our children this year. Please consider joining them, volunteering your time (or someone else's time) or donating: <https://tinyurl.com/DukesPTA>.
3. **Volunteer in School.** We are always short of volunteers during the school day to listen to children read, to help with maths or with the forest school. Parents, carers and grandparents can all help out.
4. **Travel Smart.** Our student council travel committee worked hard last year to encourage active travel to Dukes. Please avoid driving to school if you can. If you must, please drive and park considerately. Do not block our neighbours' driveways, do not park on pavements and look out for children walking, scooting or cycling to school.
5. **Respect our Staff.** We have a friendly and supportive school community that we can all be proud of. Mrs Ford and Mrs Cousen welcome every visitor to reception with a smile. Please do not harm our school community by being rude or disrespectful to our staff. They do difficult jobs and we should all do our best to support them.

I would like to finish by wishing the best to our children, staff and the whole Dukes family for a new school year. I am confident that a great year lies ahead for us all.

All the best,



Bryn Adams

Chair of Governors