

## Governor's Section

**New Governors:** This year we are looking for new governors to join our friendly team. Governors agree the direction of nursery and then work with the staff team to set the school on that course. This includes a variety of tasks from monitoring the budget, setting curriculum themes, assessing children's outcomes and everything in between. Our team works extremely well together and would welcome anyone interested. There's no need to know anything about schools either. If you have some time to spare and would like to get involved, please let me know.

Governors with responsibilities for specific areas are:

Chair of Governors	Ian Daniel
Vice Chair	Sue Tucker
Chair of Teaching and learning committee Responsibility for SEND	
Chair of Resource Management Committee	Kate Copley
Responsibility for Health and Safety	Caroline Boam
Responsibility for Data Protection Friends of Flagg	Helen Brittain-Carlidge
Parents represented on the Governing Body	Jonathon Figg, Gill Graham
Staff represented on the Governing Body	Helen Woodruff, Sarah Capper

All of our governors have links to our school. Sue Tucker is a specialist teacher for the hearing impaired who used to come in and support one of our children; Ian Daniel, Kate Copley, Helen Brittain-Carlidge, Jonathon Figg and Gill Graham were or are all parents of Flagglers (a term coined by an ex-pupil who once indignantly told his grandad that he was NOT a toddler but in fact a Flagglers!), Caroline Boam, Sarah Capper Helen Woodruff and I are members of staff but also all parents of ex-Flagglers! However anyone can be a governor, so if you know of anyone in the community who may be interested please let me know. In the past we have had parish counsellors, the chapel minister, grandparents of Flagglers and people who work for Derbyshire County Council.

Being a governor is a voluntary position but if you work your employer may give you time off in lieu, some employers give up to 5 days a year. There are six meetings a year, each taking a couple of hours, normally in school, though these are currently online.



Governors choose to be on either:

- The Resource Management Committee (buildings, health and safety, staffing structure and finance, GDPR) or
- The Teaching and Learning Committee (curriculum development, progress and assessment, SEND, safeguarding and equality)

Governors visit the school to monitor their area of responsibility. It is not too onerous and when the world is normal we even have social events too.

### COVID update

As you know we are fully open in line with private nurseries and child minders. All staff are currently taking lateral flow Covid 19 tests twice a week but have not been offered vaccinations. If your child or anyone in your family shows symptoms of Covid then please isolate the family for 10 days and let us know. Our Covid 19 risk assessment, which can be found on the website, states that windows must be open to aid the flow of air inside the building. We still have the heating on but bear in mind that it is colder than usual inside so the children need jumpers or fleeces. In order to limit the number of things which are transferred between school and home could I please ask that toys are not brought in to nursery unless it is a cuddly for comfort. Remember to drop off at the garden gate wearing a mask between 9 and 9.15 am and pick up at the front doors at 12pm or between 2.45 and 3.15pm. Thank you.

### Home Learning

Although we are fully open and all staff in school are working with the children, we do have some children whose families have decided to keep their children at home during this lockdown. There are also children staying at home periodically when it is necessary to isolate. For these reasons we have decided to provide remote learning in the most efficient way we can. We have found that the plans we send home, complimented by stories, photos and activities on class dojo are the most efficient method for us. Photos provided by parents of this home learning on Evidence Me help us to assess the children's progress at home. We are also offering a short zoom session on Friday mornings for children at home so that they can stay in contact with staff, each other and children who are in nursery. We welcome any feedback about the remote learning either positive or negative as this will help us to evaluate our offer and improve it where we can.

The Derbyshire wildlife trust has put together some ideas and activities for parents to do at home with their children. The activities are cross curricula and focus on a different theme each week. The resources include videos to inform and demonstrate tasks as well as a weekly sheet of suggested themed activities to do outdoors.

[Wild Tots at home | Derbyshire Wildlife Trust](#) is aimed at EYFS and Year 1. These sessions include a story book reading and themed activities, the first 2 sessions ( Garden birds and Helping Wildlife) are available online now and we will add another session each week.

We have created a Facebook Group to connect Parents, carers and teachers using the Wild Tots section and this can be found here: [Nature Tots- At Home | Facebook](#).



### Living Eggs

Living Eggs will arrive in school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March for two weeks. The children will have the opportunity to watch the 10 eggs / chicks hatch and learn how to care for them. We will post photos of them on parenthub and Class Dojo so you can see how they are doing. Please let us know if you would like to provide a home for the chickens from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

### World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day this year on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Your child is welcome to dress up as a book character on this day or any other day this week if they don't attend on Thursdays. There will be book tokens available for all children. I am going to invite the older children from Monyash and Taddington Primary Schools to record themselves reading stories to our children for a storytime with a twist. We usually invite the older children to nursery to read to the children but this may just be more exciting!



### Easter Egg Hunts and Sing Along

Flagg Nursery School will be hosting our annual Easter Singalong via Zoom on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 2.00pm, join in at home if you want to. During the week we will be holding Easter Egg hunts in the garden every day to make sure that all children get the chance to join in.



### Internet Safety Training

In nursery we teach the children how to stay safe online through discussion and story. We have stories such as Penguinpig (about a wolf disguising himself as an animal called a penguinpig, a modern day Little Red Riding Hood) and chicken clicking (about a chicken who goes into the farmer's house at night and orders lots of things online, running up a big bill). When accessing the internet, the children are always supervised by an adult. Children use educational apps on the ipads so we have removed the safari (internet browser) button from the children's iPads. When using youtube, staff view all clips before presenting them to the children.

I realise that our children are very young and that it is unlikely that they will access the internet alone but forewarned is forearmed so with this in mind here is a link to some free internet safety training in March and April by Traci Good who I can thoroughly recommend:

[Derby & Derbyshire - Emotional Health & Wellbeing \(derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk\)](http://derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk)

### Help Paying for Childcare

You may be able to get extra help with your childcare costs. Childcare Choices brings together all the Government childcare offers in one place, this includes Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours free Childcare. You can use the Childcare Calculator on the Childcare Choices website to see what is available to you.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

With Tax Free Childcare, parents can get up to £2,000 per child, per year for children under the age of 12. For every £8 paid in the government will add an extra £2, up to £2000 per child per year towards childcare costs. A parent, and their partner, will need to expect to earn (on average) the equivalent of working 16 hours per week at the National Minimum wage. And earn less than £100,000 a year each. It can be used with the 15 hours & 30 hours scheme but not with childcare vouchers, Universal credit or tax credits.

### Dates for your diary:

Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for half term
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Back to school
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Living eggs arrive
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter egg hunt and singalong 2pm in nursery
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Break up for the Easter holiday
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Back to school
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bank holiday, nursery closed
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET day, nursery closed to children
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for half term
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Back to school
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Break up for the Summer holiday