



We were very fortunate in September to be joined by Mrs Jo Lofts in the role of Clerk to Governors. Mrs Lofts has a wide experience of working in schools and is enthusiastic about working with us too.

We were not so fortunate however when hit by flooding like many others on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Governors helped staff with the clean up. Sadly the school is still waiting to be able to replace furniture and other damaged items. As a result of this the Governors have formed a Flood Committee; to work with other stakeholders in the community and hopefully put in place preventative measures to minimise any future damage.

The huge success of the term must go to our Vice Chair, Gill Donaldson, who single handedly has managed to reinstate the Crossing Patrol on the hill ensuring the safety of all the children at Cromford School!

It is always wonderful to end the term with festive cheer: the Robins nativity play and the Carol Service at St Mary's – well attended by parents, friends and Governors.

***Alison Whittaker***

***Chair of Governors***

## ***Governor Newsletter*** ***Autumn Term 2023***

### ***MY NEW ROLE***

Last July I started work as Clerk to Governors at Cromford C of E Primary School. During this term, I have been busy learning the best ways to do my job, working with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors.

I also currently work as a teaching Assistant in another local Junior School and I am Clerk to Governors at other schools too! Until recently I worked at a Primary School in Portsmouth, before that a secondary school and only moved to live in Cromford in 2022. I also enjoy tackling new challenges. I have three children who have all left home and are working in various places including two who live in Europe so I have plenty of time to make a contribution to our village by working for the school. I live with my husband who is the School Caretaker and our large English setter dog.

I do most of my work at home on my computer, sending emails, writing up what has happened in Governor's meetings and organising everybody! Sometimes, Governors have meetings after school, in these, I use my laptop to write down what everyone says so that we keep a record of what Governors have agreed and actions that have been planned. I enjoy

meeting new people and being part of our community.

**Jo Lofts**

**Clerk to Governors**

### **THE SAGA OF THE ROAD CROSSING PERSON ROLE**

In October, the Governors had a definite feeling of *deja vu* when we learnt that when Hannah resigned from her role as our brilliant road crossing person, the LA told us that she would not be replaced. We were in almost the same position four years ago when the lovely Daphne retired except that at that time the LA said that if we could come up with the finances to pay a road crossing person, then we could employ one. However, after writing to Frank McLoughlin, our MP at the time, the LA suddenly found the money to pay for a road crossing person.

However, this time the LA did not give us any option – there would be no replacement. It's very difficult to understand how this decision was arrived at. Surely there are not many more dangerous roads than Cromford Hill and nearly half of our pupils cross this road each morning and afternoon?

Therefore, the Governors decided that as it worked last time we would write to Sarah Dines, our present MP, to see if she could work her magic on the LA. Sarah replied very quickly that she would support our point of view and would contact the LA. Within a few days of her email the LA informed

school that on appeal a new road crossing person could be appointed. (This was the first time we had heard about an appeal, but we're not complaining.)

So now we have a vacancy for a road crossing person if any of you are interested in applying. We are also pleased that our children will be able to arrive at school and get home safely.

And finally, we are grateful for the support of our MPs who seem to be covering our backs when the LA does not.

**Gill Donaldson**

**Vice Chair to Governors**

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

**We have 2 Parent Governor  
Vacancies**

**Please join us  
by contacting the Headteacher  
Mrs Foster**