

# Chair of Governors End of Year Newsletter

## July 2019



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to share with you how we have worked with the Headteacher and staff to shape the future and continue to develop the effectiveness of teaching and learning for your children over this past year. Our Headteacher Mrs Helen Castell, with the support of our excellent Deputy Headteacher Mrs Tracey Wilson and our incredible Staff, have work tirelessly to develop our school.

Our strategic focus is to govern our School to provide the best possible education and pastoral care for each and every child and to achieve the best for our children. To help us accomplish this we encourage all our parents and carers and the local community to continue to work with us to promote our School. We all want our children to be happy, confident and knowledgeable and make informed decisions, whilst enjoying independent learning and feeling valued in a safe and positive environment.

Governors' primary role is to challenge teaching and learning, to monitor the strategic direction of the school and ensure money is well spent, to that end we hold regular Governors meetings together with frequent monitoring visits to the School. Under our Headteacher's stewardship pupil progress and attainment has progressed in all areas. We are greatly encouraged by the enormous support of Parents as witnessed by the number who attend your children's assemblies, the children never fail to impress with their remarkable and confident performances before such a large audience.

We continue to support and nurture our Key Values, developing the School Improvement Plan and reviewing School Policies. We regular assess and reassess Governor Skills by attending Governor Training courses, join in Parent Forums, attend Assemblies and School events. Governors, who are able to, also act as helpers to the children with reading and general classroom assistance.

As Governors we regularly compare value for money by benchmarking us against similar schools. We monitor the central Sports Premium and Pupil Premium expenditure and review provision of classroom support and Special Education Needs Welfare. In controlling finance we are ably supported by our Finance Manager Mrs Louise Capps, who crunches the numbers and successfully manages to balance the books every year, in spite of the educational funding grant reducing in real terms, year on year.

We are proud of our new user friendly website, for which we thank our Office Manager Mrs Kate Pluck for all her hard work in rebuilding it, after it crashed so spectacularly due to a web hosting fault and no fault of ours. We are very grateful for the diligent way in which our Site Manager Mr Mark Turner manages the buildings of both schools and my thanks would not be complete without mentioning the ever obliging contribution and friendly face of [Mrs. Caroline Duff](#), the first face you see at the desk when you enter the School.

Pupil Premium is a great advantage to those entitled to it, anyone on most forms of benefit would qualify. We have a tick box in the New Pupil Starter Form and send out reminders throughout the year should personal circumstances change. It is completely confidential but if the School does not

know then some children could be missing out on something to which they are justly entitled. Please do not miss out.

Safeguarding and wellbeing of our pupils is paramount, we ensure effective procedures are in place and all Health and Safety measures are current, compliant and effective and training is up to date for staff and Governors. I carry out regular Health and Safety walks around the School accompanied by our Headteacher and Site Manager also, together with our Safeguarding Governor Mrs Bobby Charlick, I conduct safeguarding audits of the school and staff records at least once a term.

Funding is such that less than 5% of our income is left to spend on premises including rates, services and buildings upkeep. As a consequence we have minimal funds for capital expenditure that is why we rely so heavily on fund raising schemes and your generosity, the latest being our ambition to build our new Health and Happiness hub, which you have all heard about and are supporting so well.

As far as premises is concerned, the school struggles for space, to help alleviate this we have made some changes to the photo copy room to provide staff with a little more space to work. Essential tree works have been carried out to the grounds. We have programmed internal decorations to common parts and corridors, to be carried out over this summer break.

My sincere thanks to my fellow Governors for their support and for giving up their time so freely. Two of our Parent Governors, Chris Harland and Ruth Leverett have stood down for personal reasons and I thank them for their valued input and support. They will need to be replaced next term, so we will be looking for Parent Governor Volunteers, it is a very rewarding task. Mrs Castell will be circulating details next term, if you think it is for you please contact her.

Sadly, for various reasons, we have to say goodbye to several staff at the end of this term, both Teachers and Teaching Assistants. They will all be sorely missed. However we have some exciting new staff joining us in September and we look forward to their arrival.

Thank you to all our hardworking staff and volunteers who go above and beyond what is expected of them and of course WISPA for all their help throughout the year. Without each and every one of them the School would not be the amazing and friendly place it is and we would not have those fabulous clubs and the so important extras that we otherwise could not have or afford.

I wish all our splendid Year 2 children, who are moving on to their new schools, all the very best for their future and I look forward to the exciting prospect of welcoming all the new children into Foundation Stage in September.

May I conclude by wishing you all a very happy and restful summer holiday.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

*Ralph J Bray*

Chair of Governors