



Dear Parents and Carers,

7th May 2021

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Bank Holiday weekend and are continuing to stay safe as we all start to benefit from the gradual easing of the lockdown restrictions. The very low infection rates and the promise of further relaxations over the coming weeks are at least cause for some hope, but we do need to recognise that the guidance from the DfE remains unchanged and the school must continue to adopt the same stringent measures to help confine the spread of the virus.

The school have now been able to cast our gaze a little further ahead again and as the prospect of uninterrupted teaching now appears more likely, the governing body have recommenced in earnest the regular duties of defining and monitoring the strategic development of the school. There are several important points that we wanted to share with the wider school community at this time that will give everyone a clear indication of our key priorities.

We continue to implement and review our robust improvement plan, for both our teaching provision and our governance, that was developed in response to our last Ofsted Inspection. At this point, we believe that we are starting to see some tangible results from strategies such as the new school wide approach to maths and phonics, and we are all pleased with the progress that has been made to date.

We have been reviewing our mission statement, values and overall vision for the school, and over the coming weeks we will be looking for input from parents and carers, staff and pupils, as well as casting the net wider into the local community, to test these statements and values. We really want to ensure that we are setting goals and targets that are representative of the very specific nature of the community that we, as a school, serve.

Although funding for the school continues to represent a significant challenge, we are not alone in this issue, and we have consistently maintained a balanced budget over recent years. We need to ensure that our funding is allocated in the most effective way and this will always be considered with the best interests of our pupils at the heart of our decision-making process. We have recently benefitted from additional money from the government in the form of the "catch up premium" and this has been spent on additional hours for our teaching support staff as well as providing extra resources, both physical and digital, in key subject areas.

We have an amazing school, in a fantastic location with talented and dedicated staff. We feel that our mission as governors is to ensure that the education of our children continues to benefit from these key attributes and that we support Ms Stacey and her team in continuing to strive for the best possible outcomes for all our pupils. So please engage with us in the events that are planned over the coming weeks to help us make our school even better.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christian Judd".

Christian Judd
Chair of Governors