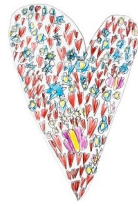




Learning for the Head, Heart and Hand



Dear Parents/Carers/ School Community

What a year it's been! We hope this newsletter finds you well. I'm sorry this is a bit long when I know you are all so busy, so thank you for taking the time to read this.

First, we want to thank you all for your ongoing support of the school. Governors have continued to meet and undertake monitoring visits, providing that much needed challenge as well as support to the school. Before our meeting in May, we were able to spend some time looking at children's books and was able to ask teachers about the music curriculum at the school.

Before our last meeting of this year, we were able to spend a considerable time speaking to a number of children. We met with representatives from Yrs 2-6 of the School Council, the Head Boy and Girl, their deputies and their predecessors, children who spoke to us about sports provision at the school as well the Eco Council. We want to thank them very much. They were all extremely eloquent and are a great credit to you all and the school. The School Council explained to us in detail what they did during the past year and what plans they have for the future. They made an articulate plea for recognition of their work in the form of badges and a slot in an assembly so that the whole school community knew who they were and what work they have been doing. The Head Boy, Girl and their deputies gave heartwarming accounts of their time at the school and what they would miss most when they left. When told he should give an answer other than 'friends, teachers and the school', one past deputy told us that he would most miss the 'opportunities' the school had given him!

The children who spoke to us about sports were clear how much they enjoyed what was being offered at the school and gave many suggestions as to what other sports they would like to do. The Eco Council were an impressive group of courageous advocates who proudly told us about the nature table and being able to share contributions during assemblies. They spoke about how they declined to wear badges given to them because they were made of plastic. Perhaps the most impressive part of the meeting was when one boy asked us what we could do for them!

After meeting with the children, we met with the School Improvement Advisor from the Local Authority where we were asked various questions about how we challenge the school. The Local Authority expressed how incredibly impressed they were with the improvements in the school and specifically congratulated us on the school's leadership and our excellent new curriculum. We then had an update from the Inclusion Team and were able to question them on how the school were supporting those with additional needs and the plans for the future. Last, we met with the Computer Science leads who talked us through their plans for the computing curriculum.

I was delighted to attend the dress rehearsal of Matilda (cast B), together with the Chair of the Thornhill Trust, his wife and another governor from the Trust. The talent this production showcased, from those who were soloists to those assisting with scene changes, was exceptional. Well done to you all!

We were very pleased with the results of the recent parental survey shared with us. As Governors, we would also urge parents/carers to contact the school to discuss any issues you may have.

In Governor news, we are sad to say that Matt Toombs CBE will be leaving our Board. His presence will be missed as will his valuable contribution as Curriculum and Wellbeing Governor. However, Matt has very kindly agreed to undertake a standalone piece of work for the school, looking at our sustainability as a school and helping to create our Climate Action Plan. Thank you Matt!

Following Matt's departure, we will be looking for another person, ideally not a parent of a child at the school, to fulfil the role of Co-opted Governor. If you know someone who might be interested in undertaking some very meaningful voluntary work, they are welcome to have an informal chat with me or any one of the Governors.

We are also sad to say that after six years, Mrs Ward has decided to step down from the Board. She too will be missed and we thank her for providing that all important angle as a staff governor, representing staff fearlessly, and particularly for her work in relation to the solar panels and the recent installation of the LED lighting. An election will be run in the new academic year and her successor will have big boots to fill! Thank you Mrs Ward for all your hard work and we wish you all the best for the future.

We want to thank the staff who are moving on to new adventures or retiring for their work for the school and to wish you all well.

A massive good luck and all the best to our Year 6 children, who also deserve congratulations for their outstanding SATS results, which, although not yet validated, are a testament to how hard they (and their teachers) have worked this year. We have no doubt they will thrive in secondary school.

Finally, Governors want to thank the children, parents/carers, the Friends (and in particular Stella and Tedy) for all their fundraising and the school disco, the CARE group and Thornhill Trust for their continued support (and the latter in particular for kindly donating our Year 6 leavers books) and all the staff, SLT and Mrs Foster for all their hard work.

On a personal note, a thank you to my Governors and Clerk who have continued to carry out their tasks diligently, behind the scenes, and have made my job as Chair so much easier!

I hope you all have a restful summer break.

Rachel Chan

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Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Governing Board