

## **Governor's End of Term letter Christmas 2024**

Dear Parents,

This term has seen changes both in staffing and Governors. Mr Brough left us officially on August 31<sup>st</sup>, to be replaced by Mr Davda who was excited to be taking over the leadership of the school. He has settled in well and the school's family atmosphere has been maintained. He has, as he said he would do at interview, watched and learnt and is now ready to introduce new initiatives to move the school on, as outlined in the School Development Plan

Lauren and Mel left the nursery, but due to the increased numbers of children, we welcomed 3 new members of staff: Amber, on an apprenticeship, and Emily and Zoe.

Anson Crouch retired as a Foundation Governor in October after many years of valuable service as Vice Chair and Chair of Resources. We have been joined as new Foundation Governors by Martin Steer and Sharon Constable, both of whom will be an asset to the Governors. This now just leaves us one Foundation Governor short.

We were sorry to lose Heather and her excellent meals for much of the term, but many thanks to those who stepped up to cover this, especially Colin and Ruby.

Recruiting a new SENCO remains a priority but, again, thank you to Mrs Swann - a qualified and experienced SENCO - for covering the position for now.

As I said in our summer letter, it was very pleasing that our children did so well at KS1 and KS2, achieving above national average results. The annual SATs tests and reports this July showed that KS1 Phonics and Early Learning Goals were above National and Shropshire levels. KS2 SATs results in all areas were above National and Shropshire averages. The School Development Plan (SDP) for 2024-25 takes into account actions recommended by Ofsted, along with continuing the Strategic Plan objectives and promoting a new strand of improving oracy in the school.

Safeguarding remains good, but following Ofsted we recognise the need to adopt a digital Safeguarding System as part of the SDP for 2024-25

The recent Parent Questionnaire Survey was again very positive, with 95% of our parents who would recommend our school to other parents and 100% feeling that it is a safe and happy place to learn with children being looked after well. 98% of those who responded agreed that their children are making good progress and being well taught, along with 96% believing that good behaviour is promoted with 100% feeling that the school is responsive to concerns and 98% feeling well informed about their children's learning and progress. Homework still remains an area to look at for improvement but 97% were happy with it. The provision of extra-curricular activities, especially for younger children, was also mentioned and needs looking at along with the people/resources needed to deliver this. We would always welcome volunteers to help the delivery of these. The survey was completed by 82% of the families in school. These results reinforce Ofsted's comments about the GOOD and family nature of our school. The full questionnaire analysis along with the Governors Impact Statement for November 2023 to November 2024 will be placed on the website.

The Governor Impact statement for 2023-24 highlights what the Governors have done over the last 12 months. David Hedgley will remain as Chair of Governors and Richard Coleman as Vice Chair with Russell Simm as Chair of Resources. The Governors, I believe, are right to be justifiably proud of their leadership especially with a third in a row Ofsted "GOOD" and the recruitment of a very vibrant and talented new Headteacher. The school remains needing only a low level of support from Shropshire Council.

Thanks to funding from the Parish Council, the playground has now been renovated with an all-weather surface, with a picnic bench and a balance beam funded by Corvedale School Association.

The new pupil toilets were ready for the September start and are a great improvement on the old ones. The flooding of an area of the nursery in the recent storm was unfortunate, but the staff rallied around brilliantly to ensure that temporary provisions were put in place for the next day. The room should be back in action for the start of the January term and more robust flood prevention measures are being pursued to prevent a repeat. Many thanks to the Governors who laboured to

put the temporary sand bagged defences in place.

The biggest challenge we now face, like many schools, is striving to maintain our present levels of staffing and resources in challenging financial times. We have a big year group going out in summer 2025 and have the same the year after in summer 2026. Fortunately, our nursery numbers continue to grow and we have the opposite problem there regarding space versus demand. This bodes well for the long term but we face challenges in the short term.

As parents you can also help us to grow the school's numbers by, wherever possible, promoting the school to your friends and colleagues - especially on social media. This has already paid off with the healthy growth in nursery numbers which are vital to the school's future. Mr Davda aims to revamp our school website and prospectus to make it more appealing and vibrant.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Governors for the unstinting work they've put in over the last year and to thank Corvedale School Association (CSA) for their continued work, and the Millichope Foundation for providing much-needed extra financial support. It goes without saying that the work and dedication of all the school staff is really appreciated and reflected in parents' questionnaire responses.

Have a good Christmas and Happy New Year and keep safe and well

D. Hedgley

Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body.