

January 2018

Dear parents/carers

A huge amount has happened since I last wrote to you, including a visit from Ofsted! Although slightly unexpected so early in the academic year, the pupils, staff and Governors rose to the challenge and impressed the inspector with the quality of education on offer, the drive for school improvement through research and reflection and the way we promote pupils' safety and wellbeing. Work is already well underway on the next steps for the school and I would encourage you have a look at the School Development Plan on the website.

The Governors have started working on our Governor Development Plan focussed specifically on improving the quality and impact of governance at the school.

Areas of focus for us this year include:

Recruitment and succession planning –Philip Priest has stepped down as an Associate Member to focus on his expanding business but I am delighted to welcome some new faces to the Governing Body. Dick Murray and Sue Roberts have joined as Parent and Co-opted Governors respectively. Sally Windmill has been appointed as an Associate Member. Angela Moncrieff has been re-elected as Staff Governor and I have been reapproved as the Local Authority Governor. We now have a full complement of Governors.

Continuous school improvement through effective support and challenge by Governors – Individual governors have attended a variety of training since September including: safeguarding pupils, Head Teacher's performance management, financial standards, Maths and English curriculum developments and the strategic role of Governors. More training is planned throughout the year.

Further development of Link Governors – Governors are "linked" to an area of the school or curriculum. This means we can understand in greater detail how different parts of the school work. Individual Governors are linked to the following areas: curriculum subjects, safeguarding, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability), assessment and community links. I'll update you on our progress with this as the year goes on.

As Mrs Williams has already informed you, the Governors have proposed to South Gloucestershire Council that our pupil admission number reduce from 45 to 30 children per year group. This decision was made to ensure we retain the high quality provision we are able to offer pupils and to better reflect the actual number of pupils we have in each year group (30 or under, with the exception of year 6). We will continue to work with the council to respond to potential changes in the local demographic. The closing date for the consultation is the 26th January 2018.

Wishing you a very happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Dalton