



Burley and Woodhead C.E. Primary School
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22nd July 2016

Dear Parents,

As Chair of the School Governors, I wanted to give you some feedback on our activities over the past year. It has been challenging, with quite a heavy workload of school improvements, but I'm pleased to say that our objectives have been highly focussed to benefit every child at Burley and Woodhead CE Primary. We have real pride in the achievements our school has made this year under the new Headship of Mrs Siddall.

So what do Governors do? Governors get on and do things which many probably don't realise happen: health and safety walks around the school; finance checks to ensure accountability; analysing pupils' progress through the school; keeping tabs on projects within the school; building relationships with staff and pupils; supporting and challenging the Head teacher and the Senior Leadership Team; helping in the interview of potential staff members; making sure that school policies are up-to-date and are part of the culture of Burley and Woodhead. The list goes on but we enjoy what we do and are proud to be part of the Burley and Woodhead School community. We have spent a lot of time this year trying to improve our work as a governing body, so that we can do the best job possible to support the school. This has included governor training and regular visits to school by governors, which has been both useful and a wonderful opportunity to talk with the children in our care. We have had a number of new members join the Governors this year: we welcomed Jon Lee as a parent governor and Adam Cobb Webb as a co-opted governor. Mr Wilkinson and Mrs Lister will also join the governing body as staff representatives as it looks forward.

This summer we had the new outdoor areas built to ensure we can deliver outstanding outdoor provision for our Reception and Year 1 class. There may be some further changes later this year or next, as we pursue an application to divert or extinguish the public footpath running through the school field in order to ensure that our children are kept safe and the school remains secure.

Over the year we have supported Mrs Siddall in her first year as the Head of our school. We have also been heavily involved in the recruitment of new staff members - Mr Wilkinson, our new Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Whitaker, our Year 4 teacher, and Mrs Lister, our new School Business Manager. They have all settled in well and we look forward to working closely with them in the coming years. We will also welcome Mr Deery, our new Year 6 teacher in September. The Governing Body is made up of individuals with many different skills and among us we do have excellent Human Resources experience. My colleagues on the governing body have helped the school management recruit new staff who have brought (or will bring) new skills and depth to the school. Having staff with experience of other schools and other education authorities will enhance the school. Throughout the year, our teachers have put our children first and Governors would like to thank all our staff for their hard work this year.



Additionally, the Governors would like to thank all our children for their positive attitudes and excellent behaviour. They are a real credit to the school, to parents and to the teachers. Our Year 6 and Year 2 children have received their Key Stage test results, and our Year 1 children have received their phonics assessment results. Governors are very proud of the effort every child has put into achieving their results. We wish our Year 6 children well on the next stage in their life.

Over the year, the Governing body has worked hard to maintain the Christian ethos of the school and this is built on respect for each other. The staff work hard to instil the principle of respect in the classroom where the children listen, learn from each other and form their own opinions. As parents will be aware, the school is placing a higher emphasis on self-questioning and children taking responsibility for their own learning. The changes this year to methods for marking and empowerment of children will develop into a whole school Growth Mindset approach, which is part of the development of the whole person. I would strongly encourage you to attend the workshops the school will put on in the Autumn term which will give you more background to Growth Mindset. This empowerment will put responsibility back to the children and visible elements of this include writing for the newsletter. A major challenge for Mrs Siddall is to keep the newsletter down in size, such is the enthusiasm of those writing the articles that are put in it. This is all part of the ideals of independent learning and the governing body encourages the importance of enthusiasm and ownership in the education of the young people in our care. The children's responses to our pupil survey will continue to guide us in our efforts to improve the daily experience of just what it means to be a child in our school.

Also important in any school is the support of parents. This can be visible support in terms of fund-raising to help support improvements in the learning environment; or the less visible kind, such as supporting staff in their efforts to improve the education of our children. The Governing body is grateful for all the support received by parents at Burley and Woodhead Primary. We listened to the feedback you gave to us in the parent survey and we will be asking you to repeat that in the new academic year. Governors might work largely in the background but we are committed to supporting the Head, the staff, the pupils and you, our parents. If you would like to talk to Governors about anything in school, please contact me through my email address, through the school office or speak to one of the parent governors.

Over the year, the Governing body and school have faced many changes from the Government, which have impacted on the curriculum, safeguarding and assessment. We have tried hard to ensure that changes haven't had a negative impact on those who are the most important; the children in our care. At one of the first Governing Body meetings this year, we confirmed our commitment to ensure that the primary objective is for children to leave the school ready to face the next stage of their lives.

Ultimately, we should all be extremely proud of our children and what they achieve; this is not just academic achievement, but their achievements in sport, the school plays, music and so on. The real test is how they achieve after leaving our school and this is again not just academic achievement but includes their participation in extra-curricular activities and their wider lives beyond schools. OFSTED does not measure life-long achievement of self-motivated civilised human beings, but we pride ourselves that this school has always been good at getting young people ready for the rest of their lives. We will continue to make this our primary objective.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the governors for the time they have given the school over the year: Reverend Kirk and Mrs Brooks as Foundation governors representing the Church; Mrs Pardoe, Mr Lee, Mrs Nossiter, Mrs Lewis as parent governors; Mr Evans and Mr Cobb-Webb as co-opted governors and Dr Duckworth as community governor. We have a very strong team of volunteers with a wide range of professional experience which helps to support and challenge the



school going forward. We are also extremely grateful for the time, organisation, guidance and professionalism that Mrs Fiona Parker brings to the Governing body in her role as clerk.

We hope that you have a restful summer break and we look forward to the new school year in September.

Mark Selby
Chair of Governors

