



Carrington Junior School

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18th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that yet another year has gone by and it is nearly Christmas time again already. Your children have achieved so much and it is such a pleasure to see their progress and attainments in so many ways. They are an example and credit to you and their school.

So, as the year draws to a close, I thought it would be good to bring you up to date on the work of the Governing Board. In some ways the Governing Board may seem invisible to you as we are not seen directly 'on the front line' day to day but we have three main responsibilities given to us by government:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school.
- Holding school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils.
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure it's money is well spent.

In practice this means that we to work in partnership with staff to understand how the school works, understand government regulatory and Local Authority requirements and ensure they are met and also the views you have as parents. We then must take all this into account so we develop and agree the future strategy and improvement priorities for the school, approve the plan Mrs Majcher and her senior team propose to both deliver these and pay for them and then monitor how well it is all being achieved.

The overall aim is to make the school the very best it can be so that your children are happy, healthy and fulfilled at school and succeed as best they can, both academically and in many other personal ways too.

Sounds simple doesn't it? You may wonder how we spend our time. To do this job well we need to spend time training for our roles, to read up on and understand educational policy locally and nationally and then we must really understand how Carrington school works and the needs of Carrington pupils – your precious children. So, as well as the above, we also spend our time formally visiting the school, learning from staff and children by observing and asking lots of What? Why? and How? questions before we meet as a team to take the decisions required and provide the senior team with both support and challenge along the way.

As many of you know the school went through a difficult period especially after it lost its headteacher, key leaders and staff between 2015-17 which resulted in OFSTED giving the school a 'Requires Improvement' rating in July 2018. We are expecting OFSTED to return sometime during 2020 and we are all working together very hard so the school meets the new raised OFSTED criteria to become a 'Good' school. Last summer the school's year 6 results were among the top 10% in the whole County and are a testament to the improvements made and of a successful school. Our OFSTED rating is important as it opens up new possibilities for partnerships and developments in the future.

A big strategic focus this year is on further developing the curriculum; not just in Maths and English which are of key importance, but in other areas too so every child has an opportunity to succeed. This may be in sport, art, computing, music, taking responsibility for something special in school, being a member of the School Council and other things. We are delighted so many of you are now sharing in and supporting your children's achievements through regular Seesaw communications.

PTO

In spite of ever tighter budgets we have worked with the school to find money to invest in new things and offer the best education possible for your child. But this would not have been possible without additional funding coming from your generosity and contributions through everything from the summer school fayre to cake sales.

The school is participating in a new cross county maths teaching development project; a phonics teaching project which has helped all children with reading fluency and the new library which has given your children the stimulus and encouragement to develop their reading skills further and enjoy many new stories and books of interest. I have seen first-hand how much the children in all year groups are enjoying these books.

New colour coded chairs for each class not only look nice but mean your children have chairs which match their size so they are sitting properly at their desks (vital for effective learning and future back health). Many children sing in the choir set up by our new Deputy Head, Mrs Cameron, and last year they sang in a fabulous concert at the Albert Hall and are gradually making a name for themselves more locally, performing in the village and with Wycombe Concert Band. Many children took part in and excelled in sporting events too numerous to mention.

Over the Christmas and New Year period the school will have a substantial investment in new ICT equipment installed. In addition to replacing an ageing server, the ICT suite will be fully upgraded with new hard and software and visualisers are already supporting learning in class. All of this will support new and exciting learning.

This coming year is our 60th Diamond Jubilee year. You will have seen your children come home with Diamond badges and also well-earned Jubilee bookmarks. This is the start of many exciting things which will be happening during the year to celebrate. You will see your children learn through history and other areas of the curriculum about the development of our village and wider area and also see developments to improve the school environment. Watch this space for announcements from Mrs Majcher in the New Year about upcoming developments and events.

The second half of this term has seen a lot of sickness amongst both children and staff, even including Mrs Majcher. Thank you for working with us through this. Mrs Majcher is now recovering well and will be back with us in January.

It is the exceptionally hard work of Mrs Majcher and her dedicated team that has made the school the successful happy school it is and we thank them for this. We continue with your support to work together to provide the best school experience possible for your children.

All that remains is for me to wish you all, on behalf of the governors, a very peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Sheddick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Sheddick
Chair of Governors