

Dear Parents,

I hope you and all those around you are well and coping in these strange circumstances.

As we can't meet and chat face to face, I along with the rest of the governors, wanted to reach out to you all to pass on our admiration for how everyone has engaged with all the challenges that the last few weeks have brought.

It has been great to see pictures of all the activities that everyone has been up to at home. As Sue Thornley said – home schooling is not something that any of us expected to be faced with, but you, along with our fantastic teachers, have done a fantastic job of providing activities for our children to be interested and most importantly, to have fun with! While we've been off I have written to class teachers to thank them for all the time they have put in chatting with children and providing learning materials online. I have also emailed the Local Authority to express governors' support and admiration for the work that Laura, Sue and Elaine have done to provide wider support for families. All along, governors have been completely behind our school's approach of ensuring that children feel reassured and as relaxed as possible as they have coped with being away from their friends and their usual routines. Sue has also said that while children are at home there is no need to 'sweat the school stuff' – she is absolutely right. Our fantastic staff can pick up all the teaching when we get back together. What is important to them and to us is that our children are healthy and happy when that happens.

On that note...

Following Government announcements that some primary year groups – Preschool, Reception, Years 1 and 6 can return to school from June 1st – the Governors have been working with teachers to make all the preparations necessary; looking at how classrooms and daily routines need to be adapted, ordering extra cleaning materials etc. I know that Laura and Sue have been talking to all the parents of children in those year groups and, as things stand, it's clear that the overwhelming parental opinion is to keep children at home. The governing board and the teaching staff fully understand and respect your choices. I would like to assure you that the school is ready to welcome children in Preschool, Reception, Years 1 and 6, but we will take your lead. Laura and Sue will keep in regular contact with parents so please let them know how you feel. The school and staff are there for you when you need them, and when you are ready.

As Chair, I feel that I can speak for the rest of the governors when I say that I can't wait for all this to be over so that our lovely school can get back to doing what it does best. Let's make some plans for a lovely garden tea party to celebrate whenever that may be...

Best wishes

Mel Orgee

Chair of Governors