

Chair of Governors letter 30th March 2021

March 2021

Dear Families

At this time last year I expected to write a letter to you celebrating the end of a normal school term and highlighting some of the many activities which make up the normal running of the school. I had similar hopes last July and even in December it seemed possible that schools would be open in January of this year. This didn't happen as a further lock down was ordered at short notice and as you will recall, it was only because there was a Training Day at the start of the term that the children didn't come back for just one day in January.

Fortunately plans to cover a range of possible situations were already in place and it was possible to move to a mixture of on-line education and in-school education for children of key workers. This was carefully arranged so that both groups had the same teaching. As result reopening the school was relatively straight forward. Inevitably, this further lock down had a major impact on us all and provided massive challenges to all the staff at BFS, to families and the children. As I mentioned in my December letter, I have access to Parent App and so, even though I have not been able to visit the school, I have been able to see the work which the teachers have been setting each day and view the many videos which have been produced for use both at home and in school. I have been particularly impressed by the calm and clear presentations of so many topics.

The Governors had a Zoom visit to the school this term which allowed us to see how the in-school teaching was largely as normal and how the Teachers and Teaching Assistants operated from their 'call centre' in the hall to provide the home learning. Among the key competencies that BFS aims to develop in our children is to be independent and resilient. I think you will agree that the staff have also had to display these skills! I know that you all have had to juggle many competing priorities and at the same time support the children in their home learning and I appreciate how hard this must have been. I should like to thank you for all your exceptional support to the children and would like to make particular mention of the support from the PFTA and wider community in projects to involve the whole school.

I trust that the overall situation will continue to allow us to keep the school open and that before too long there will be no need for 'bubbles' and we will get back to a fully integrated school – something which the Nursery and some Reception children have not yet experienced but which I value highly. At the recent Governor's meeting we recorded our thanks to Mrs Moss and all her team for their continuing outstanding efforts to support the children and I am sure you will support this view.

My best wishes to you all.

Hugh Evans
Chair of Governors



**Artsmark
Platinum Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

