

April 2022

Dear Families,

At the end of each recent term I have noted how difficult things have been for both families and for BFS staff as a result of the challenges from Covid. Sadly, we are all aware of additional economic and world problems.

I had hoped that the impact of the pandemic would have significantly reduced by now but, as you will know only too well, the current situation is that large numbers of younger children are currently affected and, inevitably, this has resulted in school staff being infected. The number of staff affected has recently been significantly higher than at any time during the pandemic, reaching 40% at one point, and this has meant that changes to routine have been unavoidable and 'bubble' operation' has had to be reintroduced for some classes at various times. Once again the staff have made outstanding efforts to keep the school open and I am sure that you will appreciate their efforts in supporting the education of the children.

On a positive note, there has been a significant relaxation of restrictions this term and families have been able to visit classrooms, to attend class assemblies and the end of day collection has returned to the previous practice.

It has also been possible to reintroduce Governor visits this term and in a group visit we were able to see that the way in which the school is operating is as it was before the pandemic and to discuss the ways in which Reading and Writing are being given particular attention. Individual visits have covered a wide range of topics including Mathematics, Health and Safety, the Humanities and SEND and this has been particularly helpful for our three newest Governors as it provides them with a detailed understanding of various aspects of the school's activities.

As I mentioned in my last letter to you, the school has set targets for each year group for the overall academic standards to be achieved by next June. I am pleased to note that good progress is being made in closing the gap in overall performance which resulted from the periods of closure.

The regular assessment of the performance level of each child is also a key feature as this allows individual issues to be identified at an early stage and appropriate support provided as needed. These support activities are closely targeted and the success rates are carefully monitored to ensure that any problem areas are dealt with in a timely manner.

It still remains likely that we will be inspected by Ofsted in the coming months but, in light of the above, I am confident that we can demonstrate that we are providing a well-balanced programme which meets the needs of all the children in line with our vision.

Once again I should like to thank Mrs Moss and all the staff for their truly outstanding efforts in what has been another challenging term. We are indeed fortunate to have such dedicated staff.

I hope you will all have an enjoyable break over Easter

Hugh Evans
Chair of Governors

