

Dear Families,

July 2022

When I wrote to you last summer, many of the restrictions arising from the pandemic had been significantly reduced and it appeared that we might just be returning to normality. As you well know things did not follow this path and the further wave of Covid 19 in the early months of this year provided a further challenge to both families and school staff.

I am sure that you will have appreciated the efforts made by the staff as they continued to teach from home when they had Covid themselves. This was made possible because the TAs play such a strong role and could take the lead in the classrooms when the teachers were unable to be physically present. This underlines the benefits of the strong Teacher/TA partnerships which have been developed over time.

Over the year there has been significant focus on catching up on learning which was lost during previous years, writing skills for the youngest children being a prime example. The support given at home is a highly valued contribution and I hope that you can continue to play a part in the education of your children. The school gives particular attention to the strengths and areas of development of each child in order that support is given as soon as a need is identified. Inevitably, this provides an additional work load for the staff but the longer term benefits for the children are obvious. I suspect that this tailored support is one of the reasons for the large numbers of children seeking places each year!

I am pleased to report that Mrs Moss is happy with progress of the catch up work and believes that the children will not suffer long term effects. Her view is supported by the end of year results and number of external assessors. Those of you who have been involved with the school for a number of years will be well aware of the number of activities which were halted as a result of the pandemic. I am delighted to see that activities such as class visits for parents, school trips (and particularly the Year 4 Malvern residential trip which provides such a good finale to the time at the school) and PFTA functions such as the Summer Fair have restarted, as they all contribute to the school community.

We will be losing a few staff at the end of term and I am writing to thank them individually for their efforts and wish them well for the future. We will be welcoming (or welcoming back in one case) their replacements in September and I am sure that they will quickly make a contribution.

You may be aware that a long serving Governor, Simon Checkley, has recently become an Associate Governor and that Isabel Welch, whose children were at the school some fifteen years ago, has joined the Governing Body. You may also be aware that we have been able to fund a small building at the rear of the site as additional space for children with specific needs which should be fully available at the start of the new term. This should ease pressures on the hall and have other pastoral benefits.

The overall financial position of the school is reasonably positive and a number of other projects are under discussion but we are very conscious of the pressures on school finances that may arise in the next years and that we need to ensure that any expenditure must be assessed against the financial position when orders are placed.

It is clear that this has been another extremely challenging year for all the school staff and at the recent Governor's meeting we once again recorded our thanks to Mrs Moss and all of 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