

December 2023

Dear Families,

This is my first letter to you in my role as Chair of Governors, after taking over from Hugh Evans in September. Dr Evans has been an exceptional Chair and I will have a very hard act to follow. For many years he has dedicated himself to supporting and developing BFS and, with his prudent financial oversight, he has steered the school through some impressive expansion projects, including the 2016 building extension, the nursery, the group provision, and the staff room. Dr Evans and Mrs Moss have been quite the team over the years and the school is very different from the one my children left 15 years ago. I am very much looking forward to working with Mrs Moss over the coming years, but I fear that Dr Evans hasn't left me any space for development!

It has been an extremely busy term for the school and Governors. We continue to move forward with Academisation, and we have started the transition to become part of the Worcestershire Hills Trust. The strapline for the new Academy is 'growing stronger together' and we are sure that forming a Multi-Academy Trust with likeminded schools will give us new opportunities and a strong future.

The Governors have visited the school several times this term, either individually to review our area of responsibility, or as a group for a Governor Open Morning, which this time focused on writing. We are always delighted to see the enthusiasm the children have for learning and their pride in showing us their work.

As you know, we had a recent visit from Ofsted and we will receive the report in the New Year. I would like to thank the leadership team, the teachers and all the support staff for their resilience through two extremely challenging days. Please pass on our thanks to your children too; they were impeccably behaved throughout and did the school proud.

Sadly for the school, we will be saying goodbye to Jayne Edney at the end of Term. Mrs Edney is an exceptional teacher and has supported the school in many ways over the years, latterly managing the Enrichment afternoons and After School Club. She will be truly missed by everyone at school, but we wish her well and hope she really enjoys her retirement.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and enjoy the break.

With best wishes,

Isabel Welch

