

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you again for taking the time to read my newsletter, and for your interest in how the Governing Body are working to develop our school. Undoubtedly, this has been a challenging term for school staff and I want to emphasise again my thanks for their hard work during this time. As governors, in addition to our usual series of committee meetings, we have been making regular visits to school to see class teaching in action and spent a very rewarding 'Governors' day' at the school on February 7<sup>th</sup>. During Governors' day, we had the opportunity to dig into the detail of a number of school processes, including school administration and pupil target tracking and monitoring. This certainly helped me to have a greater understanding of the unseen work that goes on supporting pupil learning which isn't immediately obvious from a class visit. I want to thank all governors for their support and time during the term and particularly Mrs Press, Mr Smith and Mrs Hills who put in a significant amount of time preparing for and participating in our recent OFSTED inspection.

Obviously, this inspection has been the main focus of our work at Radstock over the last term. The amount of work required to prepare for and participate in a school inspection is, I have now learned, phenomenal. For me, the inspection confirmed our view of the school and the areas that we need to improve and develop in, particularly our teaching of writing. As I noted in my previous newsletter, we have great confidence in Mrs Slocombe and other school leaders to deliver the changes Radstock needs. The OFSTED report confirms that the judgements about the school Mrs Slocombe formed during her first year are accurate and well-founded.

While there are, as with any organisation, areas that we need to improve, I also want to put on record how proud I am of our school and how grateful I am for the opportunities that it provides for all of our children. The OFSTED inspection noted that our children are fantastic and articulate ambassadors for Radstock and generally speak very highly of their experience at school. This reflects my own experiences when I have had the opportunity to talk with children in the Year 3 classes and at school council meetings. While we want to do better in our teaching of Reading, Writing and Maths, it is important to remember that, overall, our measures of student achievement are high.

Radstock provides many diverse opportunities for our children to grow and develop through, for example, sporting and musical activities and school trips. Just in the last term, my own children have been involved in a school play (Jack and the Beanstalk), running for the school cross-country team and going to Oxford Castle and Kingswood. Many other schools have, in the face of challenging regulatory and budgetary circumstances, withdrawn or reduced this kind of activity that is so important for our children's development.

Finally, I need to end with a plea to you to think about joining our governing body. Currently, we have a team of 12 governors who are responsible for oversight of school strategy. Many of these governors have served the school for more than four or five years (and in the case of Mr Smith more than 10 years) and as

their children leave the school it is natural that they will not continue in their role as governors. Without new governors joining our governing body, we cannot continue to function. A key part of our next inspection will focus on governance and without replacing retiring governors we will not excel in this part of the inspection. I have made a number of requests this term for parents to join our governing team, but unfortunately have not been successful in attracting anyone to these vital roles. If you are interested then find me on the playground or send an e-mail to [chairofgovernors@radstock.wokingham.sch](mailto:chairofgovernors@radstock.wokingham.sch).

Have a fantastic break over Easter and I look forward to seeing you all in the Summer term.

Best wishes,

Andrew Charlton-Perez (Dad to Christopher, Y1 and James, Y4)