

17th July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As school is now breaking up for the summer holiday, I thought I would write this note to let you know what the governors have been doing over the past year.

We are very aware that the children, their welfare, safety and achievements are at the centre of our work.

So the first main area of focus was the standard of teaching and learning following on from last year's successful Ofsted visit. We all know how hard the staff had worked to make the necessary improvements but we are keen that they maintain the momentum and that school improvement becomes a normal activity. We keep up to date on this by means of regular visits to the school and meetings with all the teaching staff throughout the year and we are pleased to report that we can see the progress being made.

We are delighted with the progress that the school is making under Mrs Hussain's leadership. Her ability and professionalism has been recognised by the County Council who asked her to support another nearby school on a part-time basis for the past two terms. Other members of our leadership team also took opportunities to work with that other school which helped them to develop their professional skills. That school has now been able to recruit a new Headteacher, our involvement has ceased and County are very pleased with the work the team did.

Another success for us this year is the development of our Early Years offer. We now provide 30 hours a week care for 3 year old children in the Nursery and, starting in September, we will be offering extended hours wrap-around care for both 2 and 3 year old children which will be of great benefit to working parents.

Pressures on school finance continues to be an issue for all schools and we are no exception. The government persist in giving out the message that there have been no cuts in education budgets. This is only partially true as direct school funding is the same but some discretionary budgets have been cut and our costs as employers have increased without being funded. A focus for governors for the next school year will be how we can develop sustainable additional income which will help us to invest further in our teaching and learning. We will keep an eye on any advantage of becoming an academy school but do not intend to change our status for the time being.

The governors would like to extend our grateful thanks to the Friends of Watton School who work very hard every year to raise money to buy resources which the children enjoy enormously.

As you are aware, the school does not close over the summer break. The Holiday Club have developed another exciting programme of activities for the children and we thank them for looking after the children so well during the break. Also, of course, there are plenty of jobs around the school that can only be done when the children are not there and so Mr Starkey will be busy over the holiday working hard to keep the school fabric in a good order. Our thanks to all the staff involved in these important programmes.

When school resumes in September the governors will continue to work hard to fulfil our obligations by continuing to develop our close and supportive relationship with the school and by spending time seeing it in action. We will continue to do our best to ensure your children are happy and safe at school and that they get the best education possible.

If you would like more information on the work we do or have any comments on how we can do better please feel free to contact us at any time (governors@wattonatstone.herts.sch.uk).

We trust that you and your families have a really enjoyable summer break and we look forward to seeing the children again in September.

On behalf of the Board of Governors

Yours sincerely

Charles Clark

Chair