



18 December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Governor Newsletter December 2018**

### **School Performance**

The Government has now published the definitive 2018 performance data for primary schools. The important measure is how well pupils progress, and this is measured as progress from the Key Stage 1 SAT tests (end of Year 2 in 2014) to the comparable Key Stage 2 results (end of Year 6 in 2018). Information is given separately for Reading, Writing, and Maths, and we came second in Cambridgeshire (out of 262 schools) in each subject. A different school came top in each of the three subjects, and if you combine them we came top overall.

Among pupils eligible for Pupil Premium, we came top on the progress measure (by a large margin) in both Reading and Writing and second (by a small margin) in Maths.

We note that this is the second year running we have been at the top of the tables, including a full year with our new Head Teacher. Our conclusion is that both Heads are truly excellent and, as important, that quality teaching and systems are deeply embedded in the School. The School staff are committed and highly skilled, and it shows. The pupils respond well to encouragement and support within our school and we are proud of their achievements.

Our thanks and praise to all the staff.

### **New School Building**

The new school building is often too hot in summer and too cold in winter (and occasionally too hot in winter!). We repeatedly ask the Local Authority and the firms responsible for the construction to investigate and to put this right, but to date with only limited success. We apologise to parents and pupils for the sometimes difficult conditions and assure you that we are still concerned and still pressing for corrective measures.

### **Parent Car Park**

There have been serious safety issues in the parent car park. The police have advised us that there is sufficient on-street parking for necessary drop-off and collection, and indeed that it is generous compared to that available at many schools. We still hope that it may be possible to re-open the car park with new markings, to see if this addresses the issues. Governors have decided that we should only re-open if we can do so safely; and that if we do re-open, we should close the car park permanently if there is a further serious safety incident.

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## **Sad News**

As many parents will know, Barney Oram died on 27<sup>th</sup> November of cancer. He was only 42 and has children aged 8 and 5 in the School. The funeral was last week and the Chair of Governors, the Head, another governor and several teachers attended from the School. He has been a parent governor since 2015 and chair of the Staff, Pupils and Curriculum Committee. He has provided wisdom and leadership throughout and has been enormously generous with his time. As a serving teacher (at Long Road), he has also been able to offer professional expertise. We will miss him greatly.

## **Committee Chairs**

We are sadly also losing Mussadiq Khan as a governor, as he is moving to a job in Windsor. He too has been a stalwart of the Governing Body and has been Chair of the Finance and Development Committee. As with Barney, Musaddiq's contributions have been invaluable and are not readily replaced. We can at least wish him well in his new job and hope that he will offer his expertise to a local school or academy chain.

Angelos Chatzipapas has taken over as chair of the Finance and Development Committee and Catherine Shimmin as chair of the Staff, Pupils and Curriculum Committee.

## **New Governors**

We have had a vacancy for a parent governor since Ricardo Arbelaez retired in the autumn. Barney's death made it two. Catherine Shimmin, who was already a co-opted governor, has agreed to become a parent governor. And we have appointed a new parent governor, Evangelos Giannoudis, whose son is in Year 4.

This left us with two vacancies for co-opted governors, and we are delighted that Panos Raptis has agreed to join us. He is an architect and works professionally on school improvement, so as well as all the general responsibilities of a governor, we hope he will be able to help see us through our heating and cooling problems.

We wish pupils, parents, carers and staff the very best wishes for the season

Best regards

The Governors