



End of Year Governor Letter

It doesn't quite seem possible that we have come to the end of another school year and my first as Chair of Governors. It has been wonderful to see things getting back to normal with school trips, Messy Fiestas, special assemblies, the Christmas show, Jubilee celebrations, sports day and most recently the Rise Year 4 Choral Concert. Thank you all for your ongoing support at these events and throughout the school year. A special thank you to FOWS who have had such a successful year raising funds for our school.

Governors, have also been able to return to "live" visits, allowing us to support staff in ensuring all children have the very best opportunities to flourish and shine in our school. Visits have included safeguarding, SEND, health and safety and Early Years with a focus on progress with the School Development Plan. It is always a pleasure to visit the school and speak with our fantastic pupils and staff.

Our pre-school has continued to thrive this year and provide opportunities for the youngest members of our school family to flourish and shine too! Thanks to Sian and the team. Also, due to excellent financial budgeting we are able to secure the current staffing levels going into next year for both the pre-school and primary school.

A definite highlight this year has been the building work starting on our long-awaited school hall and I would like to thank everyone involved in making this happen. It is going to open up so many more opportunities for our children as well as providing much needed space as the school continues to grow. You will also have noticed the maintenance work on the roof and front wall that are being carried out due to successful Condition Improvement Fund bids. A lot of work goes into completing these bids and so thanks must go to those responsible.

Another highlight that I must mention is the SIAMs inspection that happened back in November. It was a privilege to meet the inspector along with other Governors and staff to be able to talk about how the Christian vision of our school is embedded, allowing children to maximise their potential, and become responsible global citizens. Again, a huge thank you and well done to everyone involved.

This year we say farewell to two long serving Governors, Debs Meakin and Nigel Smith who have both made huge contributions over the years. Debs worked closely with staff involved in our Early Years provision and also helped ensure that safeguarding processes and procedures were effective. Nigel has been instrumental in securing funding for the school hall and has been involved in the planning process throughout. Nigel has also led sports clubs as well as serving as Vice-Chair and Chair over the years amongst many other things! On behalf of the school and Governors I would like to thank them both for their contributions and wish them well for the future.

The school has greatly benefited from the support of Rise Academy Trust over the last year with both staff and governors being given the chance to work collaboratively with others from across the Trust. Various training opportunities have supported us all in continuing to develop the

quality of education for children at our school. We look forward to further developing these links with Rise next academic year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Governors, to thank Mrs Hopkins, Miss Geeson and all the staff at Waltham School for their hard work and dedication this year. Despite ongoing disruption due to Covid, they have continued to give their all and minimize any impact on our children.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Summer holiday and look forward to another exciting year when we return at the end of August.

Anna Butler (Chair of Governors)

“Let your light shine” (Matthew 5:16)

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