

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS REPORT END OF SCHOOL YEAR - JULY 2015

Last July I was fortunate to be with everyone at the Leavers Assembly to sum up my thoughts for my first year as Chair and to tease out some of our plans for 2014/15 – unfortunately I cannot be with you this year and so I have asked my fellow governor Mr Barnes to join Mrs Throup in recognising the success of our year 6 pupils who have been a joy to know and be in their company and I also know have performed extremely well in their SATs.

However that is not going to stop me from summing up the year as simply - FANTASTIC!

Where do we start? Well throughout the year we have seen more and more sports related events thanks to the hard work of all the staff but particularly Mrs Hughes – the evidence is in the wonderful page on the school website and the recent School Games Bronze award. Success both within the school and when representing the school. The children have done us proud throughout the year!

This time last year we expressed the hope that we would enter a garden in the RHS Spring Show at Malvern. Well we did and we got the ultimate award of DISTINCTION!

Every single child in the school contributed and I was privileged to be involved with preparation of the site and generally showing off my hammering and nailing skills before and after the event. The feedback we received as the project developed and then from everyone at the show was incredible. The children simply represented the school in the best way possible – confident, enthusiastic, proud and very practical – including their programme selling skills! We will leave the feedback book on show for a long time to come as it still gives us goose bumps to see how much everyone enjoyed the children's efforts.

Thanks must go to Mrs Johns, Mrs Williams and Mrs Conner for their unstinting commitment over the nine months to the garden project but equally every member of the school team contributed to ensure the project was successful – “Elgar on his bike” was a particularly lovely touch generously created by Mrs Manton. The pride we all felt in the garden project is, in my opinion, also extended to the work that Mr Day contributes via the lovely school gardens which is what our visitors see first as they enter the school grounds. This is in addition to his determination to maintain the school in such excellent condition.

New kitchen = tick, new IT equipment and wifi throughout the school = tick, Woodpeckers classroom fully refurbished = tick, art/music room = tick as we complete its conversion from IT room, children's centre building removed = half a tick until the site is fully tidied as promised by County!

We cannot forget the Christmas Show from Fledglings and Robins. Simply wonderful with obvious stars in the making for future shows! We had visits from v.i.p's – Shane Connolly and Sir Anthony Winnington telling the children about their work and responsibilities as an international award winning floral designer and High Sherriff of Worcestershire respectively. They will be hard acts to follow – but watch this space!

We have already had visits from clever people at University of Worcester who are working with the younger children on coding and developing their IT skills. Eagles also had the joy of discovering 3D printing, computer aided design. All these projects will continue through the next school year benefitting new groups as they move through the school.

Throughout the school all these wonderful initiatives have supported the children in developing their learning skills and at every opportunity have been linked with the delivery of the core curriculum subjects.

This year has been an ongoing challenge financially and our thanks go to the parents of our Fledglings and Robins children who accepted with good grace the changes we were obliged to implement from January in the afternoons. It was very hard work particularly for Mrs Johns, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Watson but the imaginative ways in which they supported the children and continued to develop their learning skills has been superb.

The decision to make the changes between January and July was to manage our budget in such a way as to be prepared for this coming September when we, correctly, anticipated an increase in numbers joining the school. We wanted to ensure we could put a structure in place for this coming year that would meet everyone's needs. Careful financial management of our small school is fundamental, as is planning – sometimes well in advance – in order to support the needs of the children AND the staff. These are two of the many and varied responsibilities of the Governing body.

All of the governors continue to develop their skills and we have recently completed training which we intend to put to good use in the next school year to support the teaching team. Such work will help us to continue to meet our specific responsibilities of overseeing the school's performance which already benefits from receiving good data. Talking about data, I was delighted to see the SATs results for our Year 6 children last week and could not be more proud of them all. We thought 2014 results were good. This year they are equally good and show how well the children have developed as they have progressed through school. Year 6 may be a small group this year but they have certainly made a huge contribution to the school. They are most certainly "secondary ready" which was reflected in their performance at the show last week! The standard of the shows whilst I have been a governor has been remarkable and, again, the parent feedback on the night and subsequently has simply added to our joy at seeing children enjoying themselves.

This equally applies to the class topics throughout the school which have been impressive. I was held to account earlier this term as Mrs Foley skilfully led the older children through a topic involving various types of leadership – their questioning of me was certainly thought provoking! Mrs Allen and Mrs Wakefield and Woodpeckers were complimented by our IT sponsor visitors when the children were showing off their skills in using electricity to create light and movement. The website gallery shows how much effort the staff put into every day! We hear that the newsletter is now an eagerly awaited document and woe betide Mrs Throup if it is delayed!! Remember that the cost savings we have made from good use of technology has significantly benefitted the overall resources budget.

I want to say a huge thanks to our Headteacher Mrs Throup. Every day we see happy animated children who clearly respect each other and their environment. They all contribute to the philosophy that Mrs Throup has brought to the school as illustrated by our seven balloons: **critical thinking, concentration, risk taking, curiosity, perseverance, co-operation and managing distractions**. I want to add something I see every day – our children **aspiring to be the best!**

So there you have it - I thought last year was great but this year – wow! As for 2015/16? Well watch this space – that may sound familiar but we are already planning! Thank you to you as parents for helping us make this another memorable year. We could not do it without your continued support whether it is via the PTA and their fabulous money making events or your much appreciated feedback for all the work put in by the staff – long may it continue!!

Have a wonderful summer break – see you in September!

Chris Hurley
Chair of Governors

July 2015