



Aston Rowant C+E Primary School
School Lane, Aston Rowant, Oxon OX49 5SU
01844 351671 office@aston-rowant.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Helen France

View from the Governing Board July 2022

Another busy year, a year which has seen a re-emergence of normality after the challenges of COVID-19. Another year of progress and growth for our school.

We started the year with four new members of staff, a significant change for our small school, added two new governors, and we finished the year with an inspection from Ofsted.

Our school was well-prepared for the inspection; however, these visits always require lots of organisational activity for our staff and governors to make sure the school is seen in the best possible light. The outcome was fantastic; our inspector said achieving 'good' through the pandemic was a significant achievement. Moreover, then added that the school has real potential to achieve outstanding.

We are continuing to grow and have a full intake of pupils in Foundation for the third year running. This year there were 44 applications for 15 places. Our strategy for the last three years has been for the school to become the choice for parents, children and staff. So, something is working!

So, what's the role of the governing board in the above? It could be argued that staff do 99% of the work and governors 1%. Whatever this percentage, it's the 1% that verifies that the things that are said to be in place - are in place, in use and working as they need to. Your governors know exactly where the school is with budgets, pupil numbers, performance and where efforts to improve are being made and why. As governors, we benefit from significant support from our local authority in the form of training, advice and also support from a professional clerk. So, the Ofsted result was not a surprise, but confirmation that the changes being



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implemented and extra efforts invested are working and working well.

Our two new governors bring a wealth of experience to the team. Zoe Batt brings project management and marketing, Gill Tyler is a retired primary school head teacher. Both governors are a terrific addition to the board.

Despite increasing pupil numbers, the budget remains a continuing challenge. We have invested in a new phonics programme, replaced ageing 'teaching walls' and purchased more books for the children. However, the school building infrastructure needs urgent attention and funds must be found to do this - which presents the next big challenge for the school.

Sadly, our Rev Des, the Reverend Desmond Foote, to be more specific, will leave the board at the end of the school year. Des has been our Foundation Governor since 2014. All governors are volunteers and the usual term of office is four years. His wise council and commitment to the school will be greatly missed. Gill Tyler has taken on the role of Foundation Governor from Des.

It's been a truly great year for the school. Our objective for 2022/23 is to make it an even better year.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer break.

Steve Taylor
On behalf of the governing board