



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

21st July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

View from the Governing Board

In last year's newsletter on the 20th July, I wrote that "We will no doubt all remember 2020 as being the year of the Covid virus". We are now in mid 2021 and Covid is still at the front and centre of everything that we do. But things have changed, we know much more about the virus, we have adapted our behaviours for limiting the spread of the virus and also now have a vaccine to inoculate ourselves from the effects. So, twelve months on, though there will no doubt be more developments and more challenges to accommodate, the future looks encouraging and positive.

For the school, we are starting to see the benefits from the changes introduced 18 months ago – the revised teaching structure, improvements to the provision of teaching and learning, and tracking attainment and progress data.

The Governing Board strategy aim to become the school of choice for pupils, parents and teachers has also contributed to progress. Pupil numbers are up for our Foundation intake for the second year in a row; we were very pleased to receive nine well qualified and talented applications for the replacement of our two outgoing members of staff. It was also wonderful to welcome Mrs McCleary back from maternity leave.

For a small school, the budget is always a challenge. The last 12 months have been particularly difficult for our incoming financial experts, income is down and outgoings are up. Sam Goose our Finance Governor and Jane Oakford our Bursar have been working closely with our local authority to ensure we complete the school year with a positive balance.

Sadly, Sheila Reynolds our Foundation Governor leaves at the end of the school year, she has been a governor since 2017 and has completed her term of office. Sheila has spent the majority of her career in the fields of Social Care and Special Education Needs, the last 15 years as an independent consultant. It's not just Sheila's knowledge and experience that will be missed. Her commitment to asking objective, challenging questions and determination to make a difference to help each child to reach their full potential have been a regular and welcome support for the board. It has been a privilege working with Sheila.

We are looking forward to September to welcome our new staff and pupils, to pick up where we left off and continue to strive for improvement.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer break

Steve Taylor

On behalf of the Board of Governors