

20th July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers, Staff and Pupils

Congratulations to the whole school community for making it to the end of the school year! And thanks to each and every one of you for your commitment and energy spent supporting the schools, doing your best and making a difference. After the pandemic and the challenges of the past couple of years, it turned out to be a year of not simply 'getting back to normal'. It was wonderful to see festivities, trips and school events back on the calendar – in many cases better than ever! However, there was still caution as the schools continued to tackle Covid absences and there was a sense that the whole community's wellbeing needed time to restore itself.

The schools are privileged to have incredible senior leadership teams and we take this opportunity to thank them on behalf of us all for everything they have done this year: Ms Clarke and Ms Ojo in the Junior School and Ms Neal, Ms Arnold, Ms Walker and Ms Jessett in the Infant School.

Before we break for the summer, there are a few things we would like to bring to your attention:

1. OFSTED Inspection of the Junior School

Having spent the whole year on tenterhooks about an impending visit, the week of Ofsted's actual visit was the first week I did not expect it to happen, being so close to the end of term and the children in full flow enjoyment of the extra curriculum activities planned for them. As expected, the inspection was rigorous and involved a phenomenal amount of hard work on the part of the schools. We will write fully concerning the inspection once we know the official outcome and the report is available in September.

2. Communications and Impact Statement 2021-22

Hopefully you have found Governors' regular updates in the newsletter and at PTFA meetings helpful. We have also expanded our section of the Website to give you more information about our role and activities. Our Impact Statement for 2021-22 which brings together a summary of specific work we have carried out this year can be found on our website. [Please click here](#)

3. Governor Appointments

We have recently appointed a new Partnership Governor: Daniel Forde. Following recruitment checks, his profile will be on the Website to read alongside the existing biographies of other governors. In the autumn, governors will be running a coffee/information meeting to share information about the role of governors as well as

gauge interest among the parent/carer community for potentially filling a co-opted governor position when vacancies arise next year.

In July, the Chair of Governors and Chairs of Committee were re-elected for the next academic year, with the only change being to Vice-Chairs. From September Vice Chair (Junior) will be Sarah Schutte and Vice Chair (Infant) will be Sarah Hall.

4. School Priorities 2022-23

As described in June's newsletter, Governors ran strategy days for each school. We looked at the current Strategic Plan's Priorities to assess progress made, and we reviewed a range of self and third-party evaluation documents to identify key priorities for next year. In view of Ofsted's stringent requirements, curriculum development will continue to be a priority for both schools. There will also be objectives to target pupils' attendance, well-being for staff and pupils, and increased challenge across the whole curriculum. Further priorities will be shared in the new Strategic Plan for 2022-23 in the autumn.

We wish you all a safe, relaxing and happy summer and look forward to early September when we will benefit from the new Reception/Office location in Honeywell House.

Yours faithfully

Emma Healey
Chair on behalf of the Governors