



Cubbington C E Primary School

Dear Parent and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a great Christmas and New Year and you are looking forward to the new school term.

I wanted to take this opportunity to update everyone on the work of the Governing Body during the Autumn Term and some of our priorities in the coming weeks. At the start of the school year we held our first annual strategic review meeting where we reviewed the school self-evaluation document and worked with Mrs Jones to establish the key priorities for improvement in 2015/16. These priorities for improvement (standards in writing across the school, maths outcomes in Key Stage 2, and effectiveness of leadership and management) are now part of the overall school improvement plan. We also established some longer term objectives for the school and the governing body which we will review again at the start of the 2016-17 school year. These are:

- To be a good school with outstanding features.
- To ensure that standards are rising across all areas.
- Maintain the core Christian values of the school and ensure that these are clearly communicated.
- To be in a secure financial position.
- For governors to be clearly setting the strategic direction of the school.

Having established these objectives Governors have been working hard to achieve them through the work of our sub-committees. For example, the Resources Committee has reviewed a number of new initiatives in terms of financial management within the school. These will ensure that we have robust systems in place that allow us to make better decisions about future investments in school facilities and the buildings. On the Performance and Standards Committee we have analysed pupil progress and attainment data in great detail as well as reflecting on the likely impact of the new assessment system. This ensures that Governors are not only aware of the standards in place across the school but can support Mrs Jones and all the staff in their on-going efforts to drive improvements.

We have also been making progress in our search for a permanent Headteacher (please watch out for more information on how you might be able to help with this). Part of this has involved consulting with staff, parents (specific thanks to those of you who took part in the parental consultation session) and, most importantly, children. As a result of this consultation we are confident we have an understanding of the qualities we are looking for in the successful candidate. The advert for the role will be issued in the near future and we hope to have made an appointment before the end of the Spring Term.

I would also like to take the chance to add one or two words of thanks to specific groups. First, I was really pleased to be able to attend the PTA AGM in September and so wanted to recognise the contribution that our PTA make. In financial terms their efforts in relieving you of your hard-earned cash make a genuine difference to the quality of education in the school – for example, the changes to the Wrens outdoor areas currently funded by the PTA are critical to our ability to offer a varied

experience for early years and foundation stage children. More broadly though the PTA play a vital role in bringing the wider school community together, whether that be through the Quiz or the Christmas Fair. Of course these events are designed to make as much money as possible, but they are also key to maintaining the Cubbington ethos we often talk about. Members of the PTA give up huge amounts of their time to make these events a success and I know they are always looking for new ways to force your hands into your pockets – so, on behalf of the Governors, I would like to thank them all for their efforts (and if that doesn't get me a free burger at the Summer Fair nothing will!).

Secondly, I would like to recognise all of the volunteers who work equally hard on making the Garden of Eden such a distinctive corner of the school. I know how much time and effort goes into maintaining the Garden so that we have another resource available for the children and I want to thank Pam and her team for all that they do (and if that doesn't get me a free carrot nothing will!).

Thank you for your time and I hope to catch up with more of you in the coming weeks.

Yours Sincerely,

Nick Wylie