

June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the summer term I have begun to work on the Governing Body's Annual Report which will detail everything we have done throughout the year. You will receive this report in due course. In the meantime I thought it might be useful to give you a quick update on some of the actions we have taken following the spring term parent consultation meetings at which many of you completed a questionnaire.

Some of you picked out specific staff members for praise whilst a couple noted occasions where experience with a particular member of staff was not so good. All comments of this nature, positive or negative, have been passed on to relevant staff.

A few parents mentioned that they felt the school could offer more (or more varied) PE and sports within the curriculum. The Curriculum and Standards Committee received a presentation from Mrs Stott, who became the Subject Leader for this area of the curriculum last September, about the current provision and her plans for the future. Two of our Parent Governors are in the process of reviewing PE and Games provision. They have already met with Mrs Stott to hear more about her plans for developing the provision for PE and Sport at Little Paxton. In addition they have attended an external sports event which some pupils were competing in and they will later also visit class PE lessons as well as sessions run by an external games coach. The Curriculum and Standards Committee has received a preliminary report from these initial visits and will consider the full report when it becomes available in the autumn.

Six respondents mentioned concerns about bullying. One of our governors has looked in depth at the school's current policies regarding bullying and behaviour. She has made recommendations about how these could be made more effective and appropriate changes have been made. Governors will monitor the impact of these changes and the Head Teacher will report to the Governing Body about how effective the revised policy is.

Eighteen questionnaires suggested areas where communication could be improved. These included giving more notice of trips and events, giving more information about topic work, sending fewer emails. In any large organisation there are sometimes failures of communication. Getting the right information to the right people at the right time is a challenge and occasionally there will be errors and omissions for which we apologise. We constantly review how best to communicate both within school and also with you and the wider community. Over the last few years we have approved the use of the SchoolComms emailing and texting system, Class Dojos, a school Facebook page and the inclusion of more information on the school website. Next term we intend to take a look at all communication systems used in school to try to ensure everyone receives the information they need in a timely and appropriate manner. Effective communication is something that will become both more challenging and more important as the school grows. It would be useful if you could inform us of any concerns you have about communication and also of examples of when communication has worked well. You can get in touch with us either by email or letter through the School Office or by speaking with a governor at one of the Parents' Evenings which are held each term.

School dinners were still a concern for many parents and carers. We have agreed that the provision of school dinners should be re-tendered for. CCS has been the provider for many years and we agree with you this has not always been satisfactory. We commissioned an independent catering consultant, Peter Sulston of the Sustainable Catering Consultancy, to arrange a tendering process for us. We have just received proposals from five catering companies and have agreed that two governors, alongside other members of the school, will scrutinise these proposals so we can make an informed decision about the best way forward. The School Council will also be involved in the process so we can have due regard for the views of the children. Because of the notice period involved, there can be no change in the catering provider before October. We will keep you informed about the progress of the tendering process.

As I said at the beginning of this letter this is just a brief update and you will receive our full report later next month. Governors will be at the Open School event on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July (3:30 – 4:30 and 5:30 – 6:30pm). It should be possible for you to visit the new extension at that time and governors will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the new building and the further changes to the existing building which will be carried out over the summer holidays and also any questions or comments on any other matter you want to bring to our attention.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Conway

Chair of the Governing Body