

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the academic year draws to a close the Governors wanted to share some highlights from all that we have been involved with at school this year. As Governors, our role is to make sure that our school provides the best opportunities for learning and development for all our children. We want the whole school community to be working & learning in a safe, welcoming, caring environment.

Our focus, in our visits to school & at our regular committee meetings, has been to support the 'magnificent' seven ambitions that came out of the feedback that was gathered from all of us (children, parents, staff, governors) in May 2021. These ambitions have shaped the four-year school development plan. Picking out some highlights, we are very proud of what the school has achieved so far and we're excited about the further developments planned for the future.

- 1) **Increased arts provision has focused on music** with every child having access to professional instruction on an instrument this year (ukulele), visits from a range of musicians, understanding music terminology & participating in live music (either as performer or audience member) through the Rocksteady lessons (with some subsidised places for our pupil premium children) and with lots and lots of singing.
- 2) **Our ambition to improve equality & celebrate diversity** has seen our teachers trained in exploring new perspectives in our history and discovering hidden stories about people often forgotten about in the things parents and carers may have learned. The school has worked at introducing a wider range of books into our school libraries (with support from a local community group, CA Spaces and The Little Bookshop and the children have taken part in new assemblies, events and special days to learn and celebrate difference across the community.
- 3) **Use of the outdoor environment.** We are delighted by the schools' growing relationship with CA Spaces who have been supporting us in brightening and using our outdoor spaces alongside the PSA. Resources have been allocated to spend on smartening up the appearance of school as well as increasing the learning opportunities in the outdoor areas. The children have been empowered to take ownership of their environment and make plans to increase sustainability through the Green Team and we have just approved further developments for an exciting new outdoor learning area at the back of the school which should be ready in the Autumn term.

Beyond the School Improvement plan, we have continued with our role as Governors through;

- Rigorous scrutiny of safeguarding. Along with the staff team, Governors are responsible for ensuring all children are safe in school. We speak to children, staff and parents as well as monitoring, observing and questioning through visits and meetings.
- Supporting & encouraging a focus on mental health and well-being for children and staff through flexible working requests, introducing roles within the team to support well-being, Mental health Monday, worry boxes & of course, the PSA funded well-being garden.

- Monitoring attendance and the data which shows the impact of poor attendance on some children's progress. We support the measures (often over and above what is expected) the staff team make to enable children to be at school.
- Ensured the budget is spent wisely & sought evidence of the impact of funding e.g. covid catch up funds as well as preparing for the reduction in funding post 2023 when the bulge year leaves school.
- Kept communication to and from parents as a priority so have reviewed/audited the communication methods, supported the introduction of new tools & a website refresh. We know this is a key area for parents and will continue to push for strong communication.
- Reviewed our own effectiveness and efficiency by undertaking training including; the new Ofsted framework, our new teaching and learning policy and presentations from leaders on SEND, writing and behaviour.
- Been present at school whether taking part in training days, attending special events such as the Jubilee celebration or assemblies, met prospective parents, attended SEND coffee mornings and been present in school to observe playtimes, lessons, lunchtimes, fire drills and all manner of things in between that make up school days.

Overall, it is a team effort and it is the staff team, under Mr Sykes' leadership, that is to be hugely congratulated. It has been an extremely challenging year as the school has tried to get 'back to normal' post pandemic. As Governors we feel privileged to know all the amazing things that are happening in classrooms, for individual children & across the whole school - things which often there isn't time to celebrate or shout about.

We'd like to wish the best of luck to year 6 who are leaving us, we hope that Chapel Allerton Primary School has given you the foundations you need for the next stage of your journey.

To the staff team, children, parents and carers, have a happy summer & we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Kind regards,

Bobbie Gresser

(On behalf of all the Governors at Chapel Allerton Primary School)