

Dear Parents and Carers,

Governance Board Update

I hope you and your families are safe and well as I provide this very last update to you during this current academic year.

Weekly catch-up meetings have continued involving Mrs Rosser, Mrs Roy (Vice-Chair) and myself to monitor progress and address any needs that have to be met. The Governance Board conducted its final meeting on 7 July. At this meeting, I was elected to continue as Chair for a further term and I am pleased to confirm that Mrs Sally Roy was also duly elected to continue as Vice-Chair. Additionally, I will be continuing as the Governor Safeguarding lead and Sally will continue as SEND lead. Both Sally and I are delighted to be able to continue in these roles and will be doing our very best in the future to support everyone involved with our school community.

It was a very full agenda and, initially, governors discussed the need for an updated 'Strategic Plan' to be produced that would identify the key strategic issues for the board over the next few years. It is important that the board can demonstrate it has looked at strategic options available that may, potentially, provide benefit to the delivery of education to our children, as well as providing an evidence trail for Ofsted. I will be presenting a draft of this in the autumn term.

We were very pleased to welcome (virtually) Mrs Edwards, Ms Peach and Mrs Palmer (Miss McElwaine also contributed as a Teacher Governor already in attendance) during the relevant section they were reporting on for the Headteachers Report. This covered such things as 'Statutory Data' across the Key Stages, KS1 'Phonics' and the 'Point in Time Assessments' (PITA). Whilst there had been no formal SATS this year, the professionally assessed position had been based on teacher assessments. Staff were aware of where attention was needed in the future for KS1 & KS2 and the governors were pleased with the outcome when one considers the impact the pandemic has had on teaching and learning over this last academic year. We are in a very good position going forward and a huge well done to all our staff for what they have achieved under the circumstances. (All this information is available the school website).

We then had a SEND update from Ms Peach who undertakes the lead coordinator's role. This session mainly provided an update on the 'Personal Learning Passport' for those children on the SEND register. This allows those parents and children involved to set targets for each term and appears to be working very well in delivering intending outcomes.

Mrs Palmer and Miss McElwaine then updated governors on the training they have been attending one afternoon per week over each term. This involves the 'Outstanding Teacher Programme' and the 'Creative Teacher Programme'. It became abundantly clear that both training programmes presented opportunities for teachers to enhance their teaching in the classroom by adopting a different approach that involved more reflection on practices employed and personal challenge to the benefit of learning. Well done to both!

The remaining topics involved the adoption of statutory policies such as 'Standing Orders', 'Instrument of Governance' etc., reports from the various groups and committees in place, SIAMS update, Health and Safety update and an update from our Clerk who receives

regular Clerks briefings from 'Support Services for Education' (SSE). We then agreed our schedule of meetings for the next academic year.

As you can see, it was a busy meeting with lots of key areas covered. I would take this opportunity to thank my fellow governors who have 'pulled out all the stops' to support the school over the last academic year under very challenging conditions also. This is a voluntary role for all of us and I fully acknowledge that each of us lead busy lives with many other commitments to juggle but we are determined to continue to support our school as best we can and look forward to the 2021/22 academic year ahead.

Finally, I would wish our Y6 children all the very best for the future as they embark on the next stage of their education. I remember quite clearly when these children were in YR and can't believe how fast their time with us has flown by. I hope they look back on their time at High Ham with great fondness in the year's ahead and wish them every success and happiness for the future, they can all feel justifiably proud of what they have achieved. Thanks also to Y6 parents for the part you have played in getting your children to this stage as well, give yourselves a pat on the back!

Finally, finally, I hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing and safe summer break with your families and friends and I look forward to seeing you, once again, over the next academic year.

Kind Regards,
Chris Palmer
Chair of Governance Board
22 July 2021