



Governors' Newsletter

July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

At the end of the school year I usually write to you with news of what we, the governors, have been doing during the year and give you information about our plans for the forthcoming year. However, as this has been the most extra-ordinary year for all of us and you are being sent important information from the school and other sources about plans for a full return to school in September, I won't be doing that but I would like to say a huge "Thank you" to you all for the way in which you have worked with and supported Ms Kelsey and the staff to continue to make the best possible provision for the children of our school throughout the year and, in particular, at this very unusual time.

We, the governors, have been greatly impressed with the quality of work that teachers planned for the children to do at home, and also by the way in which you at home have helped your children to learn and the contact that you and your children have maintained with the school throughout the period of closure. We thank you all for everything you have done and are continuing to do. We are also very grateful for your co-operation with Ms Kelsey and the staff as they manage the business of re-opening the school safely and for your understanding that things have to be different at this time. It has been very disappointing for us and for the staff that not all children have yet been able to return to school, and we would like to thank the families of those children who are still waiting to get back to school for their patience and understanding. We are all looking forward to the complete re-opening in September.

Nobody could possibly have known at the beginning of the year that there would come a time when the Headteacher had to face every day as if it was a snow day and there had been a ceiling collapse, or that the school staff would have to become distance learning providers, and then 'bubble' managers and health and safety monitors, or that parents would have to become teachers, support assistants and play leaders whilst keeping up with all their other commitments. However, that's pretty much what happened this year and everyone in the St Mark's community has just risen to the challenges and got on with what they have had to do. Thank you all so much for everything you have done and are doing, and thank you for the phone calls, texts, emails and letters of support that you have sent to Ms Kelsey and to the staff during this very difficult time. The team really has really appreciated these kind messages of encouragement and thanks.

At the end of this term we will be saying 'Good bye' to three of the governors, Kaye Baker, and Diana Stuart, who are community governors and have both had to resign due to increased work commitments and changes in circumstances, and to Julie Caidan who is the staff governor and is to take up a new post in another school in the Autumn term. Kaye, Diana and Julie have all made very important contributions to the team in different ways, Kaye as a member of the resources committee and fount of local knowledge and information, Diana as a member of the staffing committee who has also supported children



in elements of the computing curriculum, and Julie as a member of the teaching and learning committee who has brought her first-hand classroom experience to discussions about teaching and future planning to the governors. We are very grateful to them for their work and we wish them all the very best for the future.

None of us knows what to expect of the 'new normal' whatever that turns out to be, but I hope to be able to write to you again in the Autumn term with news about the governors' team and about our plans for the 2020-2021 school year. Until then I hope you all have a happy and safe time during Summer holiday.

Yours Sincerely

Denise Harber,
Chair of Governors





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and Paralympic Values