



Parkside Community Primary School

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Chair of Governors – End of Year Letter – July 2017

19th July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the school year draws to a close, I thought this would be an opportune time to reflect on some of the goings-on at Parkside.

This has been my first year as Chair of Governors and whilst in some respects it has been a baptism of fire ("what do you mean Ofsted are going to be here tomorrow?!"), it has been an absolute privilege to serve as Chair. Aside from carrying out the day-to-day duties of a governor (safeguarding; monitoring finances and the school budget; analysing pupil data; keeping tabs on the Preschool project; building relationships with staff and pupils; supporting and challenging the Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team; interviewing potential staff members; ensuring school policies are up-to-date...), the main aim has been to assign individual governors to specific areas of the School Development Plan (on the school website) and carry out regular visits to monitor the school's progress against agreed priorities. This has worked very well and will continue next year.

As parents and carers, you should feel reassured that under the dedicated leadership of Richard, Rachel and the Senior Leadership Team, Parkside continues to go from strength to strength. This has been borne out by our recent 'Outstanding' Ofsted grading and the Y6 SATs results. Most importantly, the progress that children are making in all years is rapid. On behalf of the governors, I would like to congratulate both children and staff on the sheer effort they've put in this year. The children's spirited attitude and impeccable behaviour should also be applauded.

Thanks should also go to Mandi Cooper and Nicole Worsell who continue to build on Parkside's sporting prowess. We've had success in swimming galas, netball, football and cricket tournaments and cross-country races. More importantly, because of the

Working together to achieve individually



increased number and variety of afterschool sports clubs on offer, more and more children are being given the opportunity to try new activities and develop a love of sport.

Sam Dugan has worked tirelessly building up our small but perfectly formed farm. He is also largely responsible for Forest School and teaching the children about their environment. If you ask them what they like most about Parkside, most will answer that it's the farm or Forest School. Or both.

The children have enjoyed a tremendous range of residential and day trips this year, including Fellowship Afloat, France 2017, the Goblin Car Races, Connect with the Countryside, Herstmonceux Science Centre and the Houses of Parliament. There is no doubt that they revel in these experiences which benefit and enhance their learning. I would like to thank the staff for all the extra work that enables these visits to take place.

The PTA have once again outdone themselves. We are incredibly lucky to have such a hardworking, proactive group of volunteers. Through events such as Firework Night, school discos and the Summer Fete, they have raised in excess of £10,000. This money is ploughed back into the school, enabling us to subsidise school trips and pay for many fundamental necessities. The PTA could always do with new members but can only continue to raise much needed funds for our children if you step up and offer to lend a helping hand.

Next year, we will start building our onsite preschool. This is an exciting project that has long been in the pipeline. Until it comes to fruition, we remain at the Welcome Church and continue to offer outstanding early years provision. As of September, this provision will extend from 9am-3pm.

Joining us in September is Mr Page. We look forward to welcoming him into Year 1.

Finally, I would like to say goodbye to our Year 6 children and wish them every success as they move on to a new chapter in their lives. They have been excellent ambassadors for Parkside and will no doubt do likewise at their new schools.

So, all that remains to say is have a splendid summer, enjoy the break and try not to throttle your child when they tell you they're bored on the one day of the entire six-week holiday that you're going to stay at home and **not** go to the beach, the park, Legoland or the moon.

Kind regards,

Siobhan Murphy

Chair of Governors