



Governing Body

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22 June 2007

Dear Parents

We're on countdown, now, to the end of term and all the excitement of the forthcoming move out of the Key Stage 2 building and into our new "temporary HQ". It will certainly be hard work, but should also be a time to be celebrated as it paves the way for the start of the process to re-build our new school. Those involved will be able to say, in future years, that they were there at the birth of the new, truly-combined school. I hope digital cameras will be there at the ready to record the event!

I'm sure all offers of help with the move will be gratefully accepted – especially if you have access to a flatbed trailer or pick-up. Please speak with Mrs Downes (0118 981 4498) if you are able to help in any way. And even if you can't help, I know that messages of support to the staff would also be much appreciated – they are, after all, going to have to bear most of the brunt of the physical move themselves.

We continue to liaise with Hampshire's architectural team, and are now fine-tuning the various needs and requirements of both the Key Stage 1 site and the new school. These alter almost daily, but we are confident that the County will rise to the challenge, and by the time the school returns in September, the bulldozers and earthmovers will have moved into the Key Stage 2 site.

Challenge has been a key word this term, and the staff have totally justified our continued belief in them. A recent Local Authority inspection – one of the many which have taken place since last September – has returned a 'good' verdict overall on teaching practice, and pupil progress. The trend has been improving since January, but this is the icing on the cake, and cause for further celebration. Our teaching team should be justly proud of themselves, and of the children whom they continually put first.

We will continue, as promised, to keep you up to date with developments as they happen, both with our goal of an 'outstanding' school in academic terms, as well as structurally. We all feel very privileged to be taking part in this piece of local history.

Sports Days came earlier this year to avoid the 'move' fortnight, and I was lucky enough to go to both. The children enjoyed themselves, and congratulations go to all the talented winners. The Key Stage 2 sports day had a slightly different format, and appeared to be well received by both parents and children. It did mean, of course, that children were no longer waiting for long periods of time before taking part in an event, and seemed to enjoy all participating at the same time whilst still having the opportunity to compete against each other in various races.

A swift reminder that next Saturday, 30 June, is the annual Summer Fair. Help, as ever, would be much appreciated, either in the form of contributions or, more importantly, help on stalls. The Fair is to be opened this year by Councillor Warwick Lovegrove, Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane. Warwick is both a past pupil of the school, and an ex-governor, and has offered, during his Mayoral year, to be associated with the school in as many ways as we can dream up!

Finally, we still have a vacancy for a parent governor, so, if anyone is interested, please do contact me. It's a fantastic opportunity to be involved with your child's education at a time when the school, its children, and its reputation are all taking off.

We wish you all an enjoyable summer, and hope the sun eventually shines. Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming your children back into our new, combined school in September.

Yours sincerely

Penny Waterfield
Chair of Governors