



July 2022

Dear Parents,

A final update from governors at the end of another busy school year!

Thank you, once again, for your continued support of the school. Fortunately, whilst still juggling the effect of Covid, the school has managed to return to business as usual. In fact, it's been lovely to see that many of the activities that had been planned to start back in 2020 have now come to fruition, with more besides. Our aim as a school has always been to provide a broad education and the Ofsted framework that was introduced in the autumn of 2019 fits very much better with our ethos as a school than its predecessors. In previous frameworks, the academic targets of the school outweighed the breadth of the curriculum whereas the new framework recognises the need for schools to extend far beyond the core subjects. As a church school, the development of rounded pupils has always been the priority – it's great that now Ofsted recognises it too, even if it is better late than never!

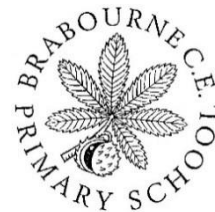
Whilst many of the plans made in 2019 had to be put on hold for a couple of years, some were implemented – such as the range of playtime activities available, ensuring that there are quiet areas for reading and crafts, areas for construction, for imaginative play and for sport. However, this year has seen the start of 'full speed ahead' in our aim of inspiring a passion for learning in all our pupils. We aim to find at least one element for every pupil that means they enjoy coming to school; that builds resilience because success in one area helps boost confidence to try again in a more challenging area; that allows them to support others because giving support to others helps build confidence and leadership.

In order to do this, we have to extend the range of opportunity available and that can be a challenge in such a small school but Brabourne is nothing if not courageous (a core value!) and the staff have been working hard on a new curriculum that should take the school to the next level of opportunity – making it an even more fun and successful place to study and work. Mr. Stapley has even begun to mutter about keeping bees and chickens, a sure sign he's looking to expand beyond the norm.

Sport has taken a front seat with a number of different coaches able to help with a variety of sports and the Gold Sports mark is recognition of those efforts. Even more is planned for next year with the aim of finding sports for every pupil to enjoy and to get as many as possible out competing and representing the school.

Pupils have been running their own clubs at lunchtimes and the garden has progressed in leaps and bounds under the supervision of Lucie (grandparent and governor) and Maggie (ex-governor) who have a keen bunch of helpers, all growing fruit and veg to feed through into the kitchens as well as the flowers that can be seen around the school. The eco team are increasingly active and have been out to meet the Mayor of Ashford and the results of arts and crafts can be seen throughout the school.

It's also been a great year for visits and trying to enrich the curriculum with experiences outside the boundary of the school. The new curriculum has been planned so key themes will be covered throughout the school at the same time. With a full two-year plan in place, all aspects of the curriculum can be tied into those themes – visits can be planned well in advance and external guests



or activities can be booked. This also links into the projects that have started with other schools abroad – building an understanding of other cultures, especially important as we recognise Brabourne is not the most diverse school culturally.

Plans for next year are to continue along the same lines, improving and extending all the time. Having done parent, staff and pupils questionnaires this year (for the first time since 2019), we're working on suggested improvements but all the numbers seem to show that we're going in the right direction!

We only have one change in the governing body – Roger Shaw, our Chair of Finance, resigned from the board in February after several years in the role and has been replaced by Emma Watson, another finance professional, bringing with her many years of finance experience (her mini bio is on the school website, along with all of the rest of the governors). So our full line up is now:

- Hester Fenwick – Chair, SEND link governor and governor training and development co-ordinator (Co-opted governor)
- Lucie Edmed – Vice-Chair & Chair of Teaching & Learning Committee (LA governor)
- Emma Watson – Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee (Co-opted governor)
- Rev.Chris Denyer – Chair of Ethics & Culture Committee, Safeguarding link governor (Ex Officio as parish priest)
- Ruthie Gilbert – Member of Ethics & Culture Committee (Foundation Governor)
- Becks Massie – Member of Ethics & Culture Committee (Parent Governor)
- Selina Eyles – Member of Finance Committee (Parent Governor)
- Lena Valentine – Member of Ethics & Culture Committee, Health & Safety link governor (Parent Governor)
- Natasha Hilton – Member of Teaching & Learning Committee (Parent Governor)
- Katie Vasu – Member of Teaching & Learning Committee (Staff Governor)
- Andrew Stapley – Member of Teaching & Learning and Ethics & Culture Committees (Ex Officio as Headteacher)

If there's anything you'd like to know more about or have thoughts or suggestions to share, please do feel free to talk to any of the above (most appear on the school gate either as a parent or a grandparent or both) or to message me (contact details below).

We hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to the next school year,

Kind Regards,

Hester (hesterfenwick@hotmail.com or 01303 814432)