

21st September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

It was nice to talk to so many new Year 5 parents at last night's Parents' Evening. Everything I heard from parents, teachers and several of our new-starters themselves, suggests that the start of term has gone well and the children are settling in to their new surroundings and already making new friends. A belated but very warm welcome to the school for those whom I did not get to meet.

The Governing Body met on Wednesday for our first meeting of the school year. Much of the agenda centred on our own governance arrangements. This included things like signing our code of conduct, declarations of interest, confirming chairs of committees and agreeing specific governor responsibilities (safeguarding, pupil premium etc.) All details will shortly be available on the Governor page of the school website. It was useful to get as much of that important 'housekeeping' completed as quickly as possible so that, in subsequent meetings throughout the rest of the year, we can concentrate all our efforts on working with the school to ensure that the young people in our care receive the best possible education.

There is no doubt that strong progress was made last year but we all recognise the importance of maintaining that momentum into this school year and beyond. We do this not because of our strong desire to get Ofsted's seal of approval for all that collective effort (though that would be very welcome!) but quite simply because it is what the children deserve. They only have one chance at receiving a decent education and the Governors will continue to do all they can to support the school, recognising the 'unique and wonderful' in everyone, and ensuring that realising the full potential of every child at Edwinstree is at the heart of all that we do.

I am looking forward to Open Evening on Thursday 4th October. These are always occasions when the school looks amazing, but I predict that, once again, it will be the children who end up as the 'stars of the show'. Whether showing prospective parents around the school or sharing with them their work in the classrooms, they are such great ambassadors for the school. In advance, I would like to thank everyone who has offered to help to make Open Evening the success I am sure it will be.

Although I appreciate it might seem a little early in the term, we always value parents' feedback on how you feel the school is performing. It is really pleasing to see the positive feedback on Parent View about the school, although we would like to see those positive figures continue to improve. Whilst all too aware of 'survey fatigue', parent feedback is something we take very seriously. Please, if it's been a while since you last went online to complete the short survey, or you might be doing it for the first time, it would be great if you could find the time to 'refresh' the survey and share your views with us. Also, if there are areas where parents are less happy, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Gant to share those concerns, so that we can understand and properly address them.

Finally, a reminder that, should anyone wish to get in touch with me or has any questions about the work of the Governing Body, my email address is chairgb@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk. I regularly check my inbox but please forgive me if I take a day or two to reply.

Yours sincerely



John Boulter
Chair of Governor

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